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Premier begins final phase of dialogue

HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah will begin today, (Saturday) a series of meetings with a cross-section of the society aimed at reviving the parliamentary life in the country.

Well-informed sources said that the Crown Prince will hold four final meetings during the current holy month of Ramadan. Sheikh Saad will begin by meeting with the chairmen of public societies at Bayan Palace

this morning. Another meeting will be held on Monday, April 9, with the chairmen of trade unions to listen to their views about the return of the parliamentary life in the country.

Sheikh Saad will receive on Tuesday the chairmen of the Kuwaiti shareholding companies to discuss the same subject. The discussion may be expanded to tackle the economic situation and the measures needed to

activate the local economy. The Crown Prince will conclude his meetings on Wednesday by meeting with the leaders of the sports movement in the country. Presidents of sports federations, clubs and the board members will be invited to the meeting. The discussions will focus on the return of National Assembly.

Sheikh Saad is expected to continue his discussions throughout the month of Ramadan with the diwanis and other prominent personalities. According to well-informed sources, the Crown Prince will submit his final report on the return of parliamentary life to HH the Amir immediately after Eid Al Fitr holidays.

Kuwait economy stable: Kharafi:

LONDON, April 6. (Kuna): Kuwait's Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Kharafi has denied that there have been political motives for the withdrawal of Kuwait from the Arab Economic Unity Council, described the economic situation in Kuwait as stable and predicted a decline in the current budget deficit.

In an interview with the London-based Arabic language "Al Tadamon" magazine, to be published next Monday Kharafi pointed out the stability of the real estate market in Kuwait and the dealings at the stock exchange market.

He also pointed out the improvement in the transit trade in the region, but said the economic situation is not clear yet because of absence of accurate estimates for oil revenues, but he predicted a cut in the current budget deficit.

As for the Kuwaiti decision to withdraw from the Arab Economic Unity Council, the minister emphasised that there have been no political reasons for this step. He added that the council's staff was inflated and indicated abuse of available facilities it was having to the point that 95 per cent of its budget were for salaries and was even unable to pay them.

Answering a question on reason for the failure of Arab economic organisations, Kharafi said "the lack of seriousness that prevents these organisations from realising their objectives." He emphasised the importance of benefiting from these adverse experiences in the future, hoping that the recent measures in the joint Arab action would result in closing of ranks so as to avoid the negative experiences of the past.

On a question about the Arab economic conditions in the light of the single European market due to be effective in 1992, Kharafi said these conditions are based on the Arab situation and any progress in coordination among Arab countries should be carried out calmly and gradually so as to be based on correct grounds.

He referred to the Gulf tripartite committee, of which he is a member, and said the committee had discussed in its recent meeting held in Riyadh, a report on the impact of the international changes on the Gulf region.

He added that the committee is going to hold other meetings later this year so as to be able to present a report to the forthcoming summit conference of the Gulf Co-operation Council.

The GCC summit summit held last December formed a tripartite committee grouping Kharafi, Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin Alawi Abdullah and Bahrain's Minister of Information Tareq Al Muayyed.

The committee was assigned with carrying out contacts with the European Economic Community on economic relations between the two groupings. ■ The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development is to extend a \$350,000 grant to Egypt to help provide consultative services necessary for reclaiming 400,000 acres of land north of Sinai.

Army fires on crowd in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, April 6. (AP): Police opened fire today on a crowd of pro-democracy demonstrators marching toward the palace in the capital of this Himalayan kingdom, witnesses said.

They said at least five people fell to the ground. Police immediately carried the five away and their condition was not known, the witnesses said on condition of not being identified.

(See Page 2)

Ramadan timings

Imsak: 4.00 am
Iftar: 6.10 pm

NEWSWATCH



Jazz great dead

Jazz great, Sarah Vaughan shown at the Newport Jazz Festival, died April 14 at her home in Los Angeles suburb of Hidden Hills, a police spokesman said. A close friend said she died of lung cancer.



Homage

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pays homage to her executed father former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, at his grave in Larnaka on the occasion of the anniversary of his death April 4.

Britain

Maggie least popular premier: Margaret Thatcher's popularity has slumped to the lowest of any British prime minister for at least 50 years, an opinion poll showed.

A Gallup poll, appearing in early editions of the Daily Telegraph on Friday said that out of more than 10,000 people interviewed, only 24 per cent said they were satisfied with Thatcher's performance — a drop of 5.2 per cent since the last poll.

That figure would make her the least popular prime minister in Britain since opinion polls began more than half a century ago. The last British Prime Minister to occupy this niche was former Labour leader Harold Wilson, whose popularity slumped to 27 per cent in 1968 eight years before his resignation.

Thatcher, in her third straight term in office, is the object of public anger over a new local tax and is also under fire for her government's handling of the economy, hit by eight per cent inflation and high interest rates.

Indian named to House of Lords: British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday announced 14 new members of the House of Lords including an Indian woman who will be the first Asian to sit in the unelected upper Chamber of Parliament.

Shireen Flather, 56, a lawyer and magistrate, was Britain's first Asian woman Mayor of Windsor, first non-white woman magistrate and the first ethnic minority woman member of local council in Britain.

Penalty enhanced
Death by hanging

AN Indian male, 30-years of age had his sentence of life decreed by the Criminal Court enhanced to the ultimate penalty — death by hanging.

The prosecution for the State in appealing the sentence, claimed that the accused had committed premeditated murder and this called for mandatory death sentence.

The Public Prosecutor told the court in his summons that the accused had been having sexual relations for the past two years with the victim. On the day of the incident, the accused visited the victim at a time when his entire family was out of the house and during an altercation stabbed the victim to death. Subsequently, in a bid designed to eradicate the murder, the accused set fire to the house.

The brother of the deceased on returning home, noticed the fire and called in the fire brigade, who after putting out the fire, managed to retrieve the partly decomposed body of the 15-year old youth.

In support of their request for calling on the Criminal Court to issue the death verdict, the Public Prosecutor cited the claim of the mother of the victim who testified that the accused had brought a knife with him when he visited the house and this constituted premeditated intentions of murder.

Nepal government sacked: King Birendra, responding to weeks of protests, dismissed the government Friday and announced broad democratic reforms that include authorising the new leadership to meet with the opposition and naming a panel to rewrite the constitution.

Bhopal settlement review: The Supreme Court on Thursday began review of last year's \$470 million Bhopal gas disaster settlement. A five-judge panel, headed by Chief Justice Sabyasachi Mukharji, will hear arguments until at least April 10 before deciding whether to overturn the deal.

Victims' groups and the current government contend that the Feb 15, 1989 settlement between the government of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi and Union Carbide Corp. is inadequate. Union Carbide, a Danbury, Connecticut-based multinational, says the settlement is fair and binding. (AP)

Marcos fraud trial opens

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP): Former Philippine president Ferdinand Marcos agreed to buy a Manhattan office building in 1981 after first balking at the deal proposed by his wife, Imelda, according to testimony yesterday at her fraud trial.

The former top official of the Philippine National Bank's New York branch said Imelda first mentioned the building to him during a visit to New York in 1981 and asked him to help persuade her husband to buy the skyscraper for \$50 to \$60 million.

"The first lady said she was counting on me to do a good job in convincing her husband in buying the building on Fifth Avenue and 57th street," said Oscar Carino, who for 11 years managed the bank that prosecutors say Imelda used as her "piggy bank" for spending spree.

Carino also recalled that New York state bank examiners threatened to close the bank in 1982 if millions of dollars withdrawn by Imelda were not replenished.

He said the bank provided her with an average of 100,000 in cash every time she visited New York, and the debt climbed from 500,000 in 1973 to as much as \$22 million in 1984.

Instructions for the withdrawals came from Imelda's private secretary, Fe Ros Jimenez, Carino testified. Jimenez is an unindicted co-racketeer and is expected to testify in the US district court trial.

Imelda, 60, and her husband were charged in the 1988 indictment with racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, obstruction of justice and mail fraud. Marcos, who was ousted from office in 1986, died last September in exile in Hawaii.

Her co-defendant, Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi, is charged with mail fraud and obstruction of justice for allegedly backdating documents to help the Marcoses hide their ownership of four Manhattan buildings.

Carino, the first Filipino witness, said he received four phone calls from Marcos after his wife said she wanted to buy the crown building, which is one of four properties the Marcoses were charged with purchasing with \$160 million allegedly embezzled from the Philippines treasury.

In the first call, Marcos instructed Carino to find out about the building's commercial value and ordered an engineering survey, the witness said. In the second call a few days later, Carino said Marcos expressed frustration about his lack of knowledge about the building.

Khashoggi was "dumb" to befriend Marcos and Imelda, but he never helped them. He only brought with him plundered millions, the former arms dealer's lawyer said.

In his opening statement, Khashoggi's lawyer, James Linn, palmed the former multimillionaire as a dope of the Marcoses who even fell for a story of a "ship of gold" the Philippine president wanted disposed of overseas.

Marcos told Khashoggi he had a ship of gold. Linn told the jury of seven women and five men.

"He told him, 'I will give you 10 per cent of this gold if you will find a port for it... preferably an Arab port,'" he said.

Linn said former president Marcos told Khashoggi — who is standing trial with Imelda Marcos — that he wanted to use the money to fight the threat of communism in his country.

"This guy fell for it," said Linn, laughing, as Khashoggi smiled wanly.

Ties, flights if Israel assures: Moscow

US and Soviets narrow differences

WASHINGTON, April 6. (Reuters): US and Soviet officials said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze appeared to warm to the idea of talks between Moscow and Israel on direct flights on Soviet Jews to Israel if Israel provided guarantees that they would not be settled in the occupied territories.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the regional issues were discussed in a second day of talks between Shevardnadze and US Secretary of State James Baker.

A US official said the Soviet side said it might be willing to open diplomatic relations with Israel and hold talks on direct flights if it got assurances on the occupied territories.

The United States and the Soviet Union narrowed their differences on Afghanistan and the Korean peninsula in high-level talks yesterday, senior US and Soviet officials said.

But the officials who briefed reporters said the Soviet side reiterated its insistence that a unified Germany should not be allowed to join Nato.

As the talks took place, the White House announced that US President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will hold a summit meeting between May 30 and June 3, probably in Washington.

US and Soviet officials expressed the need to reduce arms on the peninsula where North and South Korea have massive military forces facing each other. And one Soviet official suggested that Moscow might be preparing to establish full diplomatic relations with South Korea.

US officials repeated their suggestion of cross-recognition — that Washington recognise North Korea and Moscow recognise South Korea if tensions in the region are reduced.

On Afghanistan, where US-supported rebel forces are seeking to overthrow the Soviet-backed government of President Najibullah, US and Soviet officials said Baker and Shevardnadze agreed that elections might be the best way to settle the issue.

But the American officials said they would not support such elections under the control of Najibullah.

"Progress was made, in my view, in a sense on Afghanistan," said a Soviet official.

Soviet and American officials said that although Moscow still saw a unified Germany in Nato as a potential threat, the Soviet Union had no immediate answer for the problem.

"We are open to ideas... you must prove to us that Germany in Nato is not going to be a threat," a Soviet official told reporters.

The US and Soviet officials said the Lithuanian independence crisis was not discussed yesterday.

Saudis looking at UK for tanks

LONDON, April 6. (Kuna): Saudi Arabia has "opened-up the possibility" of another big arms deal with Britain, after its 15 billion pounds Tornado jet fighter contract signed two years ago, according to a report here today.

Quoting "sources", the London Times newspaper said the Saudi government has been "in the market" for about 600 tanks to replace its now "aging fleet".

Mideast N-disarmament proposed

Pre-emptive strike?

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 6. (Reuters): Israel could launch a pre-emptive strike against Iraq if it does not stop developing chemical and nuclear weapons, a leading military expert said yesterday.

"This is a critical point in history," Gerald Steinberg, a professor at Bar-Ilan University of Tel Aviv, told a news conference sponsored by the Israeli government.

Steinberg, who worked on US arms control programmes before moving to Israel, spoke two days after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein boasted about his country's binary chemical weapons and threatened massive retaliation for any Israeli attack.

Israel was still debating what action to take to halt Iraq's programmes in missiles and chemical and nuclear weapons or the level of development it would tolerate before striking, he said.

"At some point there are going to be 'red lines' that are going to be reached," Steinberg said. "And the question is where, at what point, will Israel decide that its security requires some sort of military action."

"So if it's not reached at this crisis — and the Arab states, particularly Iraq, continue with the development — it may be reached in the next crisis in six months or a year or two years, but probably not much more than that."

He said the only alternatives to Israel's traditional policy of deterrence were anti-missile defence, which had major faults, or arms control.

Steinberg, who also worked on the US space programme, said Iraq's present missiles were inaccurate and vulnerable to attack but would improve as Israel delayed responding.

Iraqi military facilities were being dispersed around the country and were built underground, guarded by anti-aircraft missile batteries, he said.

"You cannot seal off the transfer of technology hermetically," Steinberg said, noting that many Arab countries now have missiles and chemical weapons.

He said reliance on deterrence would become increasingly dangerous and compared the atmosphere in the Middle East to US-Soviet confrontations in the early 1960s and the tension that preceded the 1967 Middle East war.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa proposed an agreement for nuclear and chemical disarmament in the Middle East, in an unusual interview with an Israeli newspaper published yesterday.

Al Sharaa's comments to the Hadashot daily in Paris came as three other Arab countries also issued disarmament calls from the Jordanian capital Amman.



Arafat (left) shakes hands with Carter outside Elysee Palace April 4. At centre is Carter's wife Rosalyn Carter. (Reuters wirephoto)

N-arms in Mideast danger to peace

Leaders to blame: Carter

PARIS, April 6. (Agencies): Former US president Jimmy Carter said on Wednesday after talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat and French President Francois Mitterrand that Middle Eastern leaders were to blame for allowing the peace process to stall.

"The problem is among leaders who don't adequately represent the yearnings of their people," Carter told reporters on the steps of the Elysee Palace after the surprise meeting with Mitterrand and Arafat.

"President Mitterrand, chairman Arafat and I have had a discussion about the Middle East Peace process, how it might be promoted and might be rejuvenated. I think that peace... is inevitable in the Middle East," the former US president said.

Arafat, standing alongside Carter at the French presidential palace, said according to an unofficial translation: "This meeting shows that the peace process is... international and that the United States, France and the big powers play an essential role in this process."

Carter, speaking at a press conference, in Oslo, said that the spread of nuclear and chemical weapons in the Middle East could be an

inducement to an Arab-Israeli peace. "It has been known that Israel has a formidable nuclear arsenal," and several Arab countries are developing chemical and biological weapons, he said.

Carter said the potentially devastating weapons could prove to be a deterrent in the troubled region in the same way as he believed it prevented war in Europe.

He did not comment directly on the attempt uncovered last by Iraq to smuggle devices for triggering atomic warheads, which was foiled in Britain.

"The people themselves want peace. The Israelis want peace. The Syrians want peace. The obstacle is the political leaders who don't have courage to take bold steps towards peace," he said.

Carter hailed Arafat, saying the Palestinian leader was doing everything possible to promote Middle East peace.

"Obviously chairman Arafat is one of those key leaders who's done everything he can in recent months to promote the peace process," said Carter.

(Continued on Page 10)

14 die in Haryana as Delhi extends rule; Troops kill six near India-Pakistan border

NEW DELHI, April 6. (AP): The Lower House of Parliament yesterday upheld an extension of the federal government's rule in the state of Punjab, where Sikh rebels have killed more than 540 people this year.

Earlier yesterday, a bomb exploded in a bus in the town of Panipat, outside Punjab, killing 14 people. There was no immediate indication who was responsible for the blast, but the bus began its run in Haryana state near the Punjab border.

The state-run bus, travelling to New

Delhi, had reached Panipat when the bomb exploded, the news agency said. Panipat is 85 kilometres (52 miles) north of New Delhi in Haryana state, which separates Punjab from the Indian capital.

At least 29 people were killed Tuesday when a bomb exploded on a bus carrying a crowd of people celebrating the birthday of the Hindu warrior Lord Rama.

According to police, at least three more people were killed by Hindus who rioted

after the bombing at Batala.

In Parliament, a bill calling for six-month extension of the federal rule starting May 10 was passed in the Lok Sabha, or the house of the people, with 399 members voting for it and three against. Three members abstained and the remaining legislators in the 525-member house were not present.

To become law, the government-sponsored bill must also be approved in the upper house, the Rajya Sabha, but the approval is a formality since all parties have expressed their support for the move.

The Rajya Sabha, or the council of states, will meet on Monday and Tuesday to consider the proposed legislation.

The United News Agency said Sikh extremists shot and killed on Wednesday three state policemen returning from the funeral of a constable who died in the Batala bombing.

Six other policemen and several relatives of the constable were wounded in the attack near Tetherke in the Batala district, the news agency said.

Batala, a predominantly Hindu town, has been a frequent target of Sikh militants who want to establish a separate nation for their religious sect in the prosperous northern farming state of Punjab.

The industrial town of 120,000 people is 40 kilometres (25 miles) northeast of Amritsar, centre of the separatist movement and site of the Golden Temple, the Sikh faith's holiest shrine.

Police sources said today that security forces killed six men as they tried to slip into Pakistan to receive military training for Kashmir's separatist movement.

The killings, late Thursday, took place in the Kupwara district, near India's border with Pakistan, police said. Another 14 men were arrested and handed over to police.

■ The World Islamic League accused India on Wednesday of violating the human rights of Muslims demanding self-determination in Kashmir.

League head Abdullah Omar Nasif made the accusation in a message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar after the league met in Makkah to review India's handling of unrest in Kashmir.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bulgaria to dismantle barriers: Bulgaria is to begin dismantling some of the barriers along its border with Yugoslavia and abolish the restricted zone in the border Friday, the state BTA news agency reported.

The dismantling of "technical appliances" along the border with neighbouring Yugoslavia is to begin Friday, the news agency reported in a dispatch late Thursday. The decision to abolish the restricted area was made by decree of the communist government, BTA said. (AP)

Prosecutor bars publication: A state security court prosecutor barred the Istanbul daily Sabah from publishing a story Thursday about the attempted assassination two years ago of then premier Turgut Ozal. Sabah printed "censored" over the empty space left for the story in the newspaper. (AP)

Drug pusher arrested: A 22-year-old woman who hid two packets of heroin in her vagina and another four under her bra, has been detained together with 16 others in a swoop by the anti-drug branch of the Malaysian police here last night.

A police spokesman who confirmed the arrest today said the woman is a suspected pusher. Each packet found on her weighed 2.6g. (Kuna)

Nato probes spy case: Nato has started probing what may be one of its last cold war spy cases and officials said on Friday it may have done enormous damage to the Western alliance.

A 45-year-old cypher officer from Bonn's permanent mission to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (Nato) is being held in West Germany on suspicion of passing alliance secrets to East Germany over a period of more than 20 years. (Reuters)

Quake jolts Pacific isles: A strong earthquake rocked a cluster of Pacific islands on Friday, shaking buildings and generating 10-foot (three metre) waves, but no casualties were reported, officials said.

The tremor, measuring 7.4 on the open-ended Richter scale, struck Guam, Saipan and Tinian and nearby isles in the northern Marianas island chain in the Western Pacific shortly after sunrise, said Felix Sasamoto, an official of the civil defence office in Saipan. (Reuters)

ETA hit squad held: A Basque guerrilla squad blamed for 29 killings has been smashed in joint French and Spanish swoops, Spain's Interior Ministry said on Thursday.

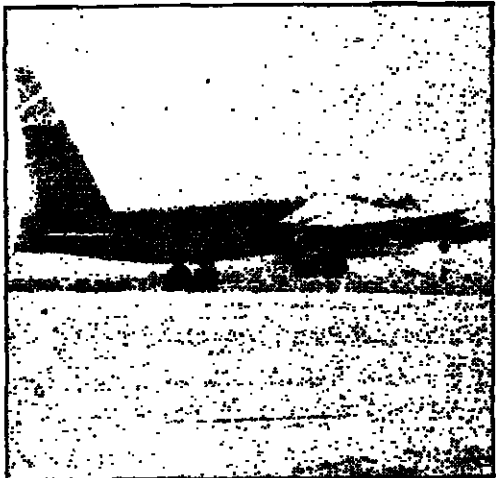
Two Frenchmen and a Spaniard were detained in the French Basque country after Spanish police had arrested another Frenchman in a shootout and foiled a massive car-bomb attack in Seville. It added. (Reuters)

Blunt resigned as party head: Charles Blunt resigned as head of the National Party on Friday, becoming the third leader of a main political party to lose office since the March 24 federal election.

The Nationals were the junior partner in the opposition coalition now headed by Liberal Party leader John Hewson. He took over from Andrew Peacock as party leader on Wednesday. (AP)

Gunmen kill tycoon: Gunmen killed a logging tycoon and three of his employees in what may have been intended as revenge for a bomb attack in which a rival tycoon and 12 followers died, local newspapers reported Thursday.

More than 10 gunmen broke into Vouth Taethiang's compound in the northern



Pegasus rocket

A Pegasus rocket was successfully launched into orbit on Thursday from the wing of a B-52 bomber, giving NASA and the private US space industry a new method of boosting small payloads into space.

It was the first time a space-bound rocket had been launched from an airplane and was proof of the viability of a commercial venture to develop a relatively inexpensive way of sending a spacecraft into orbit.

The winged Pegasus rocket was dropped from the wing of the Nasat-owned B-52 43,000 feet (13,106 metres) over the California town of Monterey on the Pacific southwest.

Five seconds later, the rocket's engine ignited, and the 50-foot (15 metre) rocket soared into space. Its third stage later released a small navy communications satellite that will circle the globe in a polar orbit 320 nautical miles up.

Picture shows the B-52 bomber with the Pegasus air-borne booster attached to its right wing take off. (Reuters wirephoto)

Pen for blind Wins invention prize

GENEVA, April 6, (AP): A drawing pen for the blind and partially blind, conceived by two Frenchmen, won the grand prize yesterday at the annual Geneva Invention Fair.

Gerard Pavard, a teacher of handicapped children near the city of Nantes, and co-inventor Jack Sagot originally intended the pen as a tool for teaching blind youngsters computer science.

They ultimately developed it for general use by the blind in drawing, graphics and the production of documents in the Braille alphabet.

Key element of the pen is a special ink that forms a slight relief, or ridge, after drying for a few minutes. The raised patterns can easily be detected by people with a strong sense of touch, the inventors say.

The drawing paper can be heated to heighten the relief, for example for children just starting to read blind script, Pavard said.

Fair organizers claimed the invention is the biggest breakthrough in the field since the 1829 invention of Braille, which uses patterns of embossed dots to signify letters.

An international jury at the weeklong fair chose the pen as top entry among some 1,000 inventions from 25 countries.

province of Loei and killed his chauffeur and two bodyguards before dragging him out of bed and shooting him, the newspapers said. (AP)

Martial law to be lifted: Authorities have raised the possibility for completely lifting martial law in Burma before scheduled May 27 elections, a government spokesman told a weekly news conference Friday.

"Martial law has been withdrawn in many townships where the law and order situation improved. Martial law will be completely removed before the coming elections if the security conditions improve," said the spokesman, Kyaw Sann. (AP)

LONDON, April 6, (AP): Recognising that it is in serious political trouble, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has moved to blunt the impact of its unpopular new local government tax.

But even though the so-called poll tax has provoked protest and a big London demonstration that turned into a riot last week, the government shows no inclination to back down.

Instead, Thatcher is taking a gamble that she can make the tax palatable by the mid-1992 deadline for the next election. And that, even close aides acknowledge, is an uncertain prospect.

"That's the question and I don't know

the answer," said a Thatcher aide, speaking on condition of anonymity.

On Tuesday, Environment Secretary Chris Patten ordered 20 high-spending local governments to impose lower taxes and cut their budgets for the current fiscal year. He said the move would reduce the bills of four million people by 30 to 100 pounds (\$50-160) a year.

The tax that took effect April 1 averages 363 pounds (\$592) a person a year, about one-third higher than the government target, and has to be paid by most of the 38 million adult Britons. Previously only the approximately 12 million property-owners paid local government taxes.

The opposition Labour Party, angered that no authorities ruled by Thatcher's Conservative Party were in the list, called it a "political fix."

"This is the final admission of the poll tax's failure," said Labour's Bryan Gould. The capped authorities claimed they would have to cut services, and accused the government of being vindictive. Some threatened to fight the measure in the courts.

Patten, who is in charge of the tax, is dropping hints of further fine-tuning. But Thatcher says she will not abandon the community charge, as she calls it.

She set out on this reform believing a

head tax was fairer than a property tax because it would net everybody, not just homeowners.

She also believed that once the bill came in, taxpayers would blame them on Labour high-spenders.

Instead, the blame is falling on her. And the scope for Patten's refinements appears to consist largely of spending more central government money to bring down the levels of the poll tax.

That's precisely what Thatcher didn't want. It prevents her cutting income tax and boosting old-age pensions and health spending and other pre-election favourites.

Benazir marks father's 'versary

ISLAMABAD, April 6, (AP): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto prayed for her father on Wednesday, the 11th anniversary of his hanging, while baton-wielding police scuffled with mourners near his grave.

Dozens of people kicked, shoved and scratched each other to try to get close to the 37-year-old prime minister as she entered the family cemetery to visit the grave of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto.

Bhutto was elected prime minister in 1970. He was overthrown in 1977 by Gen. Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq in a bloodless coup that brought military rule to this Muslim nation for the third time since its creation in 1947.

Bhutto was hanged before dawn on April 4, 1979, for his alleged complicity in a murder plot.

"The return of military rule ushered in an era of obscurantism," Benazir later told thousands of supporters who waited outside in the stifling heat of southern Pakistan.

"There was no tolerance or accommodation... dogmatic and reactionary forces were let loose and we are witnessing the consequences of all that today in the form of Islamic rhetoric without any substance, preventing a dialogue to achieve a national consensus to enhance democracy in this country," she said.

After sunrise Wednesday, members of the Pakistan People's Party founded by Bhutto, senior members of the current government and local residents filed through the cemetery in Ghari Khuda Baksh, the Bhuttos' ancestral village about 300 km (180 miles) south of Karachi.

As Benazir moved toward her father's cenotaph under a green, red and black canopy, the colours of the Pakistan People's Party, some 20 police with batons and automatic rifles slung over their shoulders tried to form a human barrier.

But the emotionally-charged crowd, some shouting "long live Benazir," surged forward. Police locked arms with the prime minister's bodyguard to keep the crowd away.

People in the crowd occasionally bumped Benazir as she said a brief prayer. A handful of women softly read verses from the Holy Quran and tossed rose petals on the grave.

Prisoners still on loose

Strangeways riot inquiry ordered

MANCHESTER, April 6, (AP): A small core of inmates at riot-torn Strangeways prison, including the self-professed leader of this week's disturbance, remained on the loose inside the jail today in a sixth day of defiance.

Ivor Serie, chairman of the local chapter of the Prison Officers Association, said those still refusing to surrender included 13 who have been identified by authorities. He said another 10 inmates remained unaccounted for.

News reports said prisoners still on the loose have been repeatedly changing clothes with each other in a bid to confuse authorities about

the exact number involved. Some are masked, adding to the uncertainty.

The government said yesterday it has ordered a major inquiry headed by a senior judge, Sir Harry Woolf, into the violence in which prisoner Derek White was fatally injured.

White, 46, died in north Manchester hospital on Tuesday of injuries he received at the hands of other inmates when the riot erupted Sunday. He was on remand in the prison in the northern city of Manchester awaiting trial on charges of indecently assaulting three children.



Rioting Strangeways prisoners shown shouting their demands to police April 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Birendra announces reforms

Nepal premier sacked

KATMANDU, April 6, (UPI): King Birendra, responding to weeks of protests, dismissed the government today and announced broad democratic reforms that include talks with the opposition and selection of a panel to rewrite the constitution.

Birendra also said he would order an investigation into the "unfortunate incidents" that led to the deaths of at least 25 demonstrators during the 6-week pro-democracy uprising, and he called for a special session of parliament.

Two of the 25 killed were gunned down after Birendra's announcement when police opened fire on a crowd of about 15,000 demonstrators shouting pro-democracy slogans, residents said. In the western city of Pokhara, police shot and wounded eight demonstrators, reports from the resort town said.

Birendra dismissed the government of hard-line Prime Minister Man Mohan Singh Shrestha, saying it failed to maintain law and order, and named former Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand to replace Shrestha.

The king's announcement was quickly met with suspicion by the opposition, and demonstrators in the South Asian nation home to Mount Everest, the

world's tallest peak — grew increasingly bold.

Nepali Congress Party leader Ganesh Man Singh, in a message secretly passed on to opposition activists from a hospital where he is being detained, rejected the king's announcement.

"The movement will continue with even greater force," said Singh, who asked the international community "not to be fooled into believing that the royal address will solve the present crisis."

"If the movement turns against the king, it is the king who is to be blamed," said Singh, whose party led the current wave of demands for democracy along with a coalition of seven leftist parties.

Balaram Upadhyaya of the extreme United National People's Movement said, "the royal address is a conspiracy to thwart the ongoing movement which will continue."

In the nearby town of Patan, scene of numerous anti-government protests, demonstrators in the streets shouted, "take back the royal address," a resident of the town said in a telephone interview.

Immediately after the address, thousands of demonstrators jammed the streets of the capital, waving flags of the outlawed Nepali Congress and Commun-

ist parties.

By mid-afternoon, the crowd swelled to about 100,000. They chanted, "withdraw the royal proclamation." Nepal has been controlled by the monarchy since 1962.

About 600 lawyers were arrested after they demonstrated in the capital for the release of colleagues who participated in the anti-government movement. Journalists with the official daily newspapers The Rising Nepal and Gorkhapatra staged strikes in a challenge to government.

"Respect for the ideals and values of democracy has always guided us in the conduct of the affairs of state," the 44-year-old king, one of the last absolute monarchs in the world, told the Himalayan kingdom of about 19 million shortly after dawn in the four-minute radio Nepal Broadcast.

The King authorised Chand's new cabinet to open talks with Nepal's growing opposition, which has demanded the kingdom abandon its pluralism. He also vowed to begin a process of constitutional reform.

Birendra's sweeping announcements followed a day of mounting tension as democracy advocates in the capital Katmandu stepped up pressures on Shrestha's increasingly embattled government.

I no longer enjoy confidence: Abad

Resignation accepted

MANILA, April 6, (AP): President Corazon Aquino today accepted the resignation of her agrarian reform secretary, who claimed he no longer enjoyed her confidence.

Land reform advocates said they fear that, without Florencio Abad, landlords will use loopholes in the two-year-old agrarian reform law to keep from losing their property to redistribution.

The issue was widely seen here as a test of Aquino's political influence as well as the government's commitment to agrarian reform.

Assistant Press Secretary Lourdes Sytango said Aquino will name one of Abad's undersecretaries to replace him in an acting capacity. She did not say which one would be designated.

Sytango said Aquino had set a meeting with Abad but he failed to arrive. Instead, Abad talked with the President over the telephone and she told him she was accepting his resignation, Sytango said.

"I feel that for me to carry on with the work, the quality and level of trust you give me is crucial," Abad said in his resignation letter. "It is with deep respect and sadness that I am tendering my resignation as secretary of agrarian reform because I believe this trust I no longer enjoy."

On Wednesday, the congressional commission on appointments failed to reach a decision on Abad's confirmation, which was blocked by landowners from the pro-Aquino struggle of the democratic Filipino party. He resigned the next day.

At least 659 people have been killed in the first three months of 1990 in communist insurgency-related incidents in the Philippines, the military chief said.

Armed forces chief Gen. Renato de Villa told a news conference that from January to March this year, 365 communist New People's Army rebels, 179 government troops and 115 civilians died in assassinations, ambushes and clashes.

In the latest incidents, communist rebels killed nine government troops on Mindanao island and fatally shot a captain in an ambush yesterday in a Manila suburb, officials said.

A military report said communist rebels ambushed a government patrol about 7 am on Wednesday near Asuncion, 640 miles (1,025 kilometers) southeast of Manila. One soldier was killed and two were wounded when communist rebels tried unsuccessfully to free comrades from a jail in central Luzon island, the military said today.

A rebel officer convicted of participation in an attempted coup against Aquino escaped in February from a military prison, the military said.

Air force Lt. Col. Rodolfo Calzado, who was sentenced last May 30 by a military court to 12 years imprisonment and hard labour, bolted Feb 25 from his detention cell at the suburban villamor air base, the military said.

Nicaraguan President-elect Violeta Chamorro to attend her inauguration April 25, her spokesman said.

THE TRAFFIC PROBLEM WAS MAN-MADE AND IT'S UP TO US TO SOLVE IT



A Traffic Issue

THURSDAY NIGHT, RAMADAN 12TH
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AFTER THE NIGHT NEWS

Myles still on top of pops

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP) "Black Velvet" kept All'annah Myles at the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States for the second week in a row Wednesday.

Two new releases made their way into the top 10 list. "Don't Want To Fall In Love" by Jane Child, up from 13th to 6th, and "Get Up Before the Night is Over" by Technotronic, up from 11th to 9th.

The top 10 pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) Black Velvet — All'annah Myles (Atlantic)
- (2) Love Will Lead You Back — Taylor Dayne (Arista)
- (3) I Wish It Would Rain — Phil Collins (Atlantic)
- (4) I'll Be Your Everything — Tommy Page (Sire/Warner Brothers)
- (5) All Around The World — Lisa Stansfield (Arista)
- (6) (13) Don't Want To Fall In Love — Jane Child (Warner Brothers)
- (7) Escapade — Janet Jackson (A and M)
- (8) (9) Keep It Together — Madonna (Sire/Warner Brothers)
- (9) (11) Get Up Before the Night is Over — Technotronic (SBK)
- (10) (10) Here and Now — Luther Vandross (Epic)

The top 10 country-western singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (3) Here In The Real World — Alan Jackson (Arista)
- (5) Love On Arrival — Dan Seals (Capitol)
- (1) Hard Rock Bottom — Randy Travis (Warner Brothers)
- (7) Walkin', Talkin', Cryin' — Highway 101 (Warner Brothers)
- (10) Help Me Hold On — Travis Tritt (Warner Brothers)
- (2) Not Counting You — Garth Brooks (Capitol)
- (11) I'm Over You — Keith Whitley (RCA)
- (17) If Looks Could Kill — Rodney Crowell (Columbia)
- (21) Walkin' Away — Clem Black (RCA)
- (4) Five Minutes — Lorrie Morgan (RCA)

And in London, "The Power" by Snap topped the British pop singles chart this week, while Happy Mondays and Madonna broke into the top 10 with new releases.

This week's top 10 singles, as listed by *Our Price Music Ltd.*, the national music retail chain, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) The Power — Snap (Arista)
- (3) Strawberry Fields Forever — Candy Flip (Debut)
- (2) Love Shack — B-52s (Reprise)
- (4) Step On — Happy Mondays (Factory)
- (5) Lily Was Here — David A. Stewart and Candy Dulfer (Anxious)
- (7) Birdhouse In Your Soul — They Might Be Giants (Elektra)
- (11) Vogue — Madonna (Sire)
- (17) Don't Miss the Partyline — Bizzy Nizz (Cooltempo)
- (6) Blue Savannah — Erasure (Mute)
- (10) Momma Gave Birth to the Soul Child — Queen Latifah and De La Soul (Gee Street)

Peggy Lee wins judgement against Disney

LOS ANGELES, April 5. (AP) Singer Peggy Lee won a summary judgement against Walt Disney Productions in a lawsuit in which she claimed Disney needed her approval before releasing the videocassette version of "Lady and the Tramp."

Lee provided voices for four characters and co-wrote songs with Sonny Burke for the 1955 animated classic.

Los Angeles superior court judge William Huss granted a request for the judgement establishing Disney's liability in the case, Daily Variety newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Neil Papiano, Lee's attorney, said the court will schedule a trial to determine damages. Lee is seeking \$12.5 million.

Disney has sold about 3.2 million cassettes of the movie at a wholesale value of \$45 million to \$50 million, Daily Variety said.

Surgeons offer lip lift

'Restore your smile'

CHICAGO, April 6. (Reuters) Plastic surgeons gave new techniques that offer the luscious lips adorning screen star Kim Basinger or the pleased countenance that graces the Mona Lisa.

To serve the cosmetically conscious, site-specific plastic surgeries can improve one's pout or restore one's smile without fatty injections or full-scale facelifts.

Among the innovations presented at the week-long convention of plastic surgeons here were textured silicon implants that produce softer enlarged breasts and tiny lasers that dissolve the spiderly blood vessels that show up in sun-damaged skin.

The new technique to thicken thin lips, developed by Reza Samian at the Baptists Medical Centre in

Jacksonville, Florida, involves making several V-shaped incisions in the lips inside the mouth and advancing some of the lining and muscle to create fullness.

The cost of augmenting both lips costs between \$2,000 and \$3,000, and could be considered preferable to collagen or fat injections, which often wear off in six months to a year, Samian said.

To restore "lip lift" to the sometimes sad appearance of older people whose laugh-lines have sagged, Bernard Cohen of the University of Pittsburgh medical school removes small diamond-shaped flaps of skin.

The result, which costs between \$350 and \$650, raises the lips into a slight smile — "much like that of the famed Mona Lisa," the surgeon said.



Checked

Model for Ralph Lauren at the 1990 Fall/Winter fashion show in New York April 4. The model is wearing a checked wool pants suit, a tie and a dark brown beret. (Reuters wirephoto)

Global influences at designer shows

New twists

NEW YORK, April 6. (AP) Buyers, reporters and others who swoon for fashion found a variety of global influences at work during a whirlwind jaunt through this week's designer shows in New York.

American folk art inspired Bob Mackie's collection. Isaac Mizrahi displayed an interest in China and tossed in some American Indian elements. And Mary McFadden paid tribute to her recent voyage to Venice.

Martin Price, designer for the Giorgio Di Sant'Angelo collection, stayed closer to home, sticking to the late designer's red hot sexy look.

Louis Dell'Ollo, for Anne Klein, blurred distinctions between day and evening wear.

Spurred on by "the real men and women that forged the wilderness," Mackie delivered up a collection that reeked of Daniel Boone, with fringe leather vests, Indian blanket coats, and short evening jackets embroidered with the liberty bell.

Mackie's Americana influences included quilted skirts and Pennsylvania Dutch quilt designs, but the elaborate gold beaded head-dress with head-to-toe feathers, which Cher could wear with equanimity, were Hollywood all the way.

Announcing that he was "encouraging men to take more liberties with their style of dressing," Mizrahi last night displayed a gray cotton raincoat with yellow alpaca lining.

For those seeking to experiment gradually with fashion, there was a richly coloured bottle green silk padded blazer, an ash blue silk trench coat and a suit with varying shades

of orange. Mizrahi introduced twists on fashion such as a charcoal double-breasted suit in wool jersey, a dressy white ruffled shirt combined with a casual leather jacket and a gold brocade dinner jacket with a bronze satin cardigan shirt.

For women, Mizrahi was typically playful, with teen skirts with one button at the waist ("I call them placemats because that's what they look like on the table") and Indian-inspired fringe ponchos with shawl dresses. Also, there were plenty of kimono and dressy ankle-length full skirts with oriental embroidery.

Continuing with his trademark colour combinations, Mizrahi showed a cream silk alpaca and beaver pea coat with a pink cardigan sweater.

Meanwhile, Dell'Ollo introduced interchangeable, eminently wearable pieces that work for day or night, a collection both basic and elegant. His outfits were easy and monochromatic, in navy, coffee, and magenta, in wool crepe, cashmere, and suede.

McFadden zeroed in on 16th century Venice, with lots of gold and Pewter metallic lace, metallic hand-painted panne velvet and embroidered velvet. Appliqued skirts, full-sleeved poet's blouses and ankle-length slender evening gowns with double tiered quilted jackets completed the look.

The Di Sant'Angelo collection, named "seduction," featured bright colours on a parade of steadily smashing models swathed in body-hugging gauze, chiffon, and mousseline.

Vaughan worked with Eckstine in his own band after they both left Earl Hines in 1944.

She and Eckstine reunited a few years back at the Kool Jazz Festival in New York and reprised some of those love ballads. But time had robbed them of memory, and both whipped out their glasses to glance at an occasional lyric for "Passing Strangers," a song popular in England in the 1940s.

This means that they came within an unsafe distance of other aircraft.

Singer Vaughan dies of cancer

NEW YORK, April 6. (Agencies) Never mind the trifling banter or the continual references to the buckets of sweat that cascaded down her ample frame.

None of that mattered when Sarah Vaughan, who died Tuesday night at age 66, seized the stage and seduced a willing audience.

Vaughan died at 9:20 pm Tuesday at her home in the exclusive community of Hidden Hills in the San Fernando Valley northwest of Los Angeles, said Los Angeles Times Jazz critic Leonard Feather, who said he has known Vaughan her entire professional life. Vaughan died of lung cancer.

"I feel lucky to have had the chance to share this world with Sarah," said trumpeter Miles Davis. "She advanced her musical artistry to the point where she was more concerned with the texture of sound, the surfaces of sounds, the joy of sound. Her music was in a place where nobody had ever been."

She caressed a song with all the colouring of her voice, sometimes teasing with the weighty depths of low D, sometimes more direct with her pure C. Sometimes playful with inspired scat, sometimes sentimental with soft singing from her soul.

Who could resist such a temptress?

"I travelled around the world with her and she'd be sold out, and people wouldn't even understand the language she was singing in," recalled drummer Harold Jones, who worked with Vaughan for a decade and had been friends with the song stylist for 25 years.

"Sometimes I'd go up to them later and ask them why they came to the concert if they couldn't understand her, why they thought she was so great. They would say, 'It was the feeling, the feeling of the way she sang. That's how they know she was great.'"

She sang of love and life. Easy, breezy tunes such as "East of the Sun." Moody, bluesy ballads like "Easy Living" and "The Man I Love." Complicated jazz songs that ended in rollicking scat — "Fascinatin' Rhythm," "I Remember April."

And along the way, she always had fun.

Once, at a Carnegie Hall concert in 1980, she performed Duke Ellington's "Sophisticated Lady," and confessed to a startled audience that she'd have to refer to the sheet music because she didn't know the lyrics.

"She was always an absolute nervous wreck before performing," recalled Andy Sinkins, Vaughan's bassist. "There's a certain edge you need to perform. But she would be a wreck. She was fine after she went on stage, or after she started the first set at a club."

"She was always a little girl. I always thought of her as a little sister. There was a certain naivete and, then again, she was old professional show business and had stories for days. Billy Eckstine was really her mentor. When she was depressed and nobody could get to her, she'd call for B. He was the only one who could get to her."

Vaughan worked with Eckstine in his own band after they both left Earl Hines in 1944.

She and Eckstine reunited a few years back at the Kool Jazz Festival in New York and reprised some of those love ballads. But time had robbed them of memory, and both whipped out their glasses to glance at an occasional lyric for "Passing Strangers," a song popular in England in the 1940s.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

PHOENIX, Ariz. A kiss is fine, but anything more amorous is a serious crime if you are under 15 and live in Arizona, the state's highest court has ruled.

Petting, according to the ruling, could land teenagers under the age of 15 in juvenile court, subject to criminal penalties set by a judge.

The five-judge Arizona Supreme Court, by a narrow three-to-two margin, upheld controversial state legislation outlawing the steamy activities of young teens.

The law was originally devised to protect teenagers from sex molesters and Arizona lawmakers are currently studying how to rewrite it without turning the normal activities of amorous youngsters into crimes.

In a sharply worded dissent on the court's ruling, handed down on Wednesday, Vice Chief Justice Stanley Feldman said the decision bestowed authority on a "massive force of sex police" to monitor young teen-age lovers.

"Every social worker, counsellor, teacher, doctor, psychologist, nurse or parent in Arizona who has been told of consensual petting by teenagers must report the activity to police," he said.

Under current Arizona law any adult who becomes aware of teens petting must report it to the police. (Reuters)

NEW YORK, Margaret Hemingway, Ernest Hemingway's model-actress granddaughter, said Wednesday she doffed her clothes for Playboy magazine "to show off my new body."

Hemingway, facing a battery of photographers at the magazine's Manhattan offices, said the revealing photo spread — and cover photo — in this month's issue is evidence her life is now on an upswing.

"There's nothing like putting my bottom dollar on this, so to speak," she said with a husky laugh.

The former million-dollar model and sometime actress said in text accompanying the photos that she put on about 15 pounds (34 kg) while recuperating from a 1985 skiing accident, and shed the weight only after a 28-day stay in the Betty Ford Clinic two years later.

"This is probably the most



Jackson visits White House

Generating more of a commotion than most foreign heads of state, pop music king Michael Jackson (left) paid a courtesy call on President George Bush (shown right) on Thursday — during a news media horde, eager White House staffers and the presidential dog, Millie.

Jackson wore a tight-fitting black drum major's outfit with a broad red stripe running down the legs to his silver-tipped boots. Originally, the White House was scheduled to bring in a small group of reporters and photographers to the oval office for the traditional photo opportunity with a visiting dignitary. Intense interest, however, forced a change in plans.

Then in a scene from the theatre of the absurd, Bush talked about his just-announced summit with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as Jackson stared at him with a bemused look. (Reuters wirephoto)

positive thing I ever did," said Hemingway, who declined to reveal her age. "The pictures are very positive."

She told reporters her famous grandfather, writer Ernest Hemingway, would have approved of the photographs, shot in the Central American nation of Belize.

"I would hope he would have been thrilled," she said, adding that her own father, Jack, had not yet seen them.

Her younger sister, actress Mariel Hemingway, thought the photographs were wonderful, she said. (UPI)

INDIANAPOLIS: Willie Nelson hopes the fourth Farm Aid concert can elicit greater support for the family farm.

The singer and fellow organisers, musicians John Mellencamp and Neil Young, had hoped they had performed their final farm aid concert when they let the stage in 1988 in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"We thought the problem might have gone away by now," Nelson, the president of Farm Aid, said last week in a telephone interview from Montreal, where he was on tour.

Farm Aid IV will be held Saturday in the Hoosier Dome before 45,000 people.

The tentative lineup of more than 60 acts includes Guns 'n' Roses, Bonnie Raitt, Don Henley, Bruce Hornsby, Richard Marx, John Denver, Lou Reed, Iggy Pop, Jackson Browne, Dwight Yoakam, K. T. Oslin and Crosby, Stills and Nash. (AP)

Rock Hudson's ex-lover files \$22m libel suit over book

LOS ANGELES, April 6. (AP) Rock Hudson's ex-lover claimed in a \$22 million libel lawsuit that he was maliciously portrayed as a psychotic criminal by the authors of a book about the late actor.

Marc Christian, who won \$5.5 million from the Hudson estate a year ago in a landmark AIDS lawsuit, said in a superior court lawsuit filed by celebrity lawyer Marvin Mitchelson that he was shamed by the book's depiction of him.

The Tom Clark and Dick Kleiner book,

"Rock Hudson: Friend of Mine," released last month, referred to Christian as "A criminal, a thief, an unclean person, a blackmailer, a psychotic, an extortionist, a forger, a perjurer, a liar, a whore, an arsonist and a squatter," the lawsuit said.

Mitchelson said the portrayal was false and that Christian was asking \$11 million in general damages and \$11 million in punitive damages for a loss of "his reputation, shame and mortification."

In addition to Clark and Kleiner, the law-

suit names New York-based Pharos Books as defendants. Martha Clark, a spokeswoman for the publisher, did not return a phone call seeking comment.

"The written statements are libelous on their face because Christian is charged with improper and immoral conduct," Mitchelson said. "They aren't backed up by any facts at all."

"The most scurrilous one of all was that Marc knew Hudson had AIDS at the time Hudson learned he had it," the attorney said.

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World News



Estefan better

Singer Gloria Estefan, whose back was broken when her tour bus was hit by a truck, is expected to be released from the hospital shortly.

Estefan has been at the Orthopaedic Institute Hospital for joint diseases, where doctors on March 22 implanted two steel rods in her back.

She will continue her rehabilitation from two fractured vertebrae at home, hospital spokeswoman Mary Costello said Monday.

Doctors said it would take the Cuban-born performer up to six months to fully recover.

The operation came one day after she was injured when her bus was struck by a tractor-trailer in Pennsylvania.

Estefan, 32, was nominated for a Grammy award this year for "Don't Wanna Lose You," a song from her solo album. (Reuter wirephoto)

N Y's No1 scofflaw

Most wanted motorist records \$171,746 fine

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Officials say Sylvia Matos parked her car wherever she wanted — in front of fire hydrants, at bus stops, beside expired parking meters. The result: \$171,746 in fines and the dubious title of New York's No. 1 scofflaw.

Broken down, the numbers indicate Ms Matos collected an average 2.4 tickets a day — including holidays. Her efforts to avoid detection and collection included registering her car under 19 different addresses and 36 sets of license plates.

Unfortunately, the city doesn't expect to collect from Ms Matos, because she probably no longer lives in New York, said parking violations bureau director Tom McEnaney.

He said Ms Matos received 2,800 tickets between Dec 31, 1984, and Feb 28, 1988. She is the parking bureau's most wanted motorist.

"She got tickets all over the place for all different things," said McEnaney. "They run the gamut from double parking to expired meters to hydrants."

"You're always going to find somebody trying to beat the system. But she's our No. 1, no question," the director said. "We've tried to find out where she's at, but it's a cold trail."

Ms Matos was \$22,000 ahead of the runner-up, Charles Rivera and his \$149,342 tab. The list of the top 10 scofflaws in the city was first reported on Thursday in the New York post.



Mis-prints

Stamp collector Patrick Sheller holds up a first-day cover of the 1990 Dutch 'Summer Series' stamps showing a missing 'C' for cent at his shop in Middelburg April 3. The misprinted 55 cent (25 cents US) is valued between \$125 and \$250 US. The Dutch Post Office issued 1,500 first-day covers, but it is unknown how many are mis-prints. (Reuter wirephoto)

Pleads to dismiss charges

I'm not going to jail, vows Leona

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): A tearful but defiant Leona Helmsley has asked a judge to dismiss state charges of income tax evasion, vowing "I am not going to jail."

The 69-year-old US hotel queen was convicted last year of federal income tax fraud and sentenced to four years in prison, but is free on bond pending appeal.

She still faces state charges that she, her husband and two former employees falsified \$3 million worth of business and tax records from 1982 to 1986.

Mrs Helmsley sat quietly through the proceedings in Manhattan's state supreme court. But surrounded by reporters as she left the courthouse, she again protested her innocence.

"Enough is enough," she said in a hoarse voice, occasionally choked by tears. "I am not going to jail. I've done nothing wrong... My only crime is that I'm Leona Helmsley. For that I'm guilty."

Her attorney, Sandor Frankel, told justice John A. K. Bradley that his client has already been "excessively punished" by the federal prosecution.

"The government should not be able to take multiple bites out of the human hide," he said.

America

Legacy of Lincoln will be fulfilled: US President George Bush predicted on Wednesday night that the time "was not far off" when a black will be elected president, but kidded potential challenger Jesse Jackson that he was not talking about him.

Addressing a group of black leaders, Bush spoke of Abraham Lincoln's signing of the emancipation proclamation that freed the American slaves and said "every president since has been challenged to be a part of the legacy of Lincoln."

The day will come — and it is not far off — when the legacy of Lincoln will finally be fulfilled at 1600 Pennsylvania avenue — when a black man or woman will sit in the oval office," Bush said, referring to the White House.

He spoke of visits to ghettos, where he has looked at the faces of children and wondered: "Will one of them be president? Is this the child who will fulfill the legacy?" (Reuter)

Hate crimes' bill approved: The House of Representatives approved on Wednesday and sent to the president a bill requiring the government to collect data on "hate crimes" motivated by race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic roots.

"Now is the time for Congress to begin the fight against hate crimes," Congressman Charles Schumer told the house when the measure was brought to the floor. The lawmakers voted 402-18 on Wednesday to send the Senate-passed measure to the president's desk for his signature.

President George Bush is expected to sign the measure, which would require the Justice Department to keep data on crimes related to victims' race, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic group. It is supported by a variety of civil rights, ethnic and police groups. (AP)

Prayer for peace criticised: The national council of churches is being criticised for a prayer for Middle Eastern peace that some religious leaders say is a pro-Palestinian political statement.

The National Council of Christians and Jews, based in New York, said the seven-paragraph "Prayer for Jerusalem" appears "extremely provocative."

"It recalls the worst uses of the Christian holy week as a club against Jews," said conference official Elliott Wright. "Holy week" is the week Christians commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent arrest and execution.

Critics of the prayer say some references appear to accuse Israel of denying Palestinians their civil and human rights and to blame the Jewish state for the violence of the Palestinian uprising.

"We see there is no peace and that people remain in agony and suffering," the prayer reads in part. "Free them from oppression, restore to them the right of life and to independence in their own land, just as other nations enjoy this right." (AP)

Lava destroys homes: Lava from Kilauea Volcano incinerated two homes in rural Hawaii island Wednesday, threatened at least four others and authorities said many more could be destroyed unless the flow stops.

Residents of 59 homes in Kalapana have been ordered to evacuate. Civil defence officials said all residents of the 125-home coastal community should be ready to pack their belongings within 72 hours.

The two wooden houses were the 7th and 78th homes destroyed during Kilauea's seven-year eruption. (AP)

Aftershock hit 4 years later: A moderate earthquake shook the San Diego area on Wednesday, and scientists said it was an aftershock from a larger quake which struck the California region four years ago.

A spokesman for the California Institute of Technology said Wednesday's tremor measured 4.2 on the Richter Scale. No damage was reported but residents described being shaken from their beds.

The original quake, on July 13, 1986, measured 5.3 on the Richter Scale, and caused only minor damage and no injuries. Both tremors were centred just off the San Diego coast. (Reuter)

Activist challenges US germ study: A Washington activist sought on Wednesday to shut down the US government's biological warfare programme, charging in a lawsuit that the Defence Department had inadequately studied the programme's impact on the environment.

The suit filed by maverick environmentalist Jeremy Rifkin and his Foundation on Economic Trends asks a federal court to stop all activities of the department's Biological Defence Research Programme (BDRP), which conducts research on bacteria, viruses and toxins with potential military applications. (Reuter)

Executions may be injurious to health: California officials are worried that executions may be hazardous to your health.

State air-quality authorities want assurances from San Quentin prison, site of California's only gas chamber, that executions of inmates will not pollute the air.

The San Francisco bay area quality control board said it has asked prison officials for information on possible danger to the public from cyanide gas released through the chimney after an execution. (Reuter)

Clean air bill approved: A US House Committee cleared away the last major obstacle to approval of a clean air bill late Thursday with a compromise agreement on reducing acid rain.

The energy and commerce committee voted 34-4 to approve a complex allowance system aimed at helping Midwest states ease the cost of reducing acid rain pollutants and soften regional opposition to the legislation.

The acid rain issue has dominated three days of closed-door bargaining among members of the committee, which is putting the finishing touches on the pollution control measure. (AP)

Bush to tour Latin America: President George Bush will visit at least five Latin American countries later this year, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater announced on Thursday.

Fitzwater said the trip will include Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Uruguay and Venezuela and additional countries may be added.

A source said the trip was expected to take place this autumn. (Reuter)

Briton's death: Police said on Thursday they



World record

The British Parachute Regiment free-fall team, the Red Devils, jumped from a hot air balloon 6,000 feet over Bath April 5. The twelve-member team set a new world record for the number of parachutists jumping from a balloon. (Reuter wirephoto)



Anne attends premiere

Princess Anne receives a commemorative brooch from Leslie Cullen on her arrival at the Odeon Theatre April 5, to attend the premiere of 'All Dogs Go To Heaven'. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ford underwent surgery

Nixon suffering from minor heart problem

NEW YORK, April 6, (Reuter): Former US President Richard Nixon is suffering from a mild heart problem that has sapped his strength and he is being treated with medication, his cardiologist said on Wednesday.

The condition is not life threatening and the 77-year-old Nixon did not require hospitalisation, said Dr Jeffrey Borer, a cardiologist at New York hospital-cornell medical centre in Manhattan.

"He's fine. He's suffering from a supraventricular heart rhythm disturbance that sapped his energy," Borer said, adding that treatment will last about two weeks.

"It's a simple problem that can be controlled easily with medication," Borer said.

The problem was discovered on Wednesday morning during a routine check-up, he added.

Meanwhile, former President Gerald R. Ford underwent surgery on Wednesday to replace his left knee with an artificial joint because of injuries dating back to his high school football days, and his other knee will also be replaced.

Ford, 76, went into surgery at 9 a.m. (1600 GMT) at the Eisenhower Medical Centre in Rancho Mirage, said Ford's chief of staff, Penny Circle. The procedure, performed by orthopedic surgeon Dr Robert Murphy, took 90 minutes, she said.

Ford will have to have his right knee replaced in October for similar injuries, Murphy said. The left knee had already been operated on three times, he said.

"He has had very bad arthritis in both of his knees dating to when he played football in the 1930s," Murphy said. "He's just gotten to the point where he was walking bone-on-bone. There was no cartilage."



Sutherland meets Walesa

Actor Donald Sutherland (right) in Gdansk to star in a thriller based on Polish politics meets Solidarity leader Lech Walesa April 5 at the union's headquarters. (Reuter wirephoto)

were investigating the mysterious stabbing death of a young British woman who had been working for a French import-export company for the last two months.

Alison Dutton, 24, was found dead at the offices of the Translittoral Company in the port of Cherbourg on Wednesday night. She had been stabbed repeatedly with a knife and died of her wounds, police said.

Her fiancé, who worked as freight manager at the firm, discovered her body. She had been closing up the offices for the night but there was no sign of a burglar. (AP)

'Chernobyl Aids': Years of Soviet secrecy after the Chernobyl nuclear catastrophe contributed to high radiation levels in 1.5 million people and so-called "Chernobyl Aids," a Soviet member of parliament said on Thursday.

"We think it was inadmissible that for three years the contamination maps and information on the medical consequences were kept secret," said Yuriy Shterbak, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet's environment subcommittee.

Because they did not know the seriousness of the situation, too many people stayed behind after a melt-down at the Chernobyl nuclear power station near Kiev in April 1986 spewed radioactivity over a wide area. (Reuter)

Slovak leader expects independence: Vice-Premier Jan Carnogursky said in an interview published on Thursday that he eventually wants to see his native Republic of Slovakia become an independent state within a unified European Federation.

"Europe is headed towards integration. When it becomes a reality one day, we would like to join it as an independent subject," Carnogursky said in the interview with the trade union daily newspaper, Prace.

Asked what he thought of Slovak independence, Carnogursky avoided a direct answer, suggesting that the extremely close economic ties make it virtually impossible for the country's Czech and Slovak republics to break apart. (AP)

Czech Semtex to be made detectable: A detectable form of Czechoslovakia's Semtex explosive should be available this year as part of efforts to render it obsolete as a terrorist weapon, its manufacturer said on Thursday.

Officials at the Systeha plant said the government had provided seven million crowns (about \$400,000) for research into making Semtex so that it would be detected in airport and other security checks.

They said the project should be complete this year. The officials, speaking at a news conference at the factory in Pardubice, northwest of Prague, acknowledged that Irish republican guerrillas fighting British rule in Northern Ireland were in possession of Semtex. (Reuter)

De Cuellar gets Onassis peace prize: United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar received a \$100,000 prize from the Onassis Foundation on Thursday for his contribution to world peace.

In his acceptance speech, Perez de Cuellar deplored the practice of torture in some countries and said peace and human rights should go together.

The "man and mankind" award cited his "personal initiative towards resolving world-wide crises and diplomatic skills which have contributed to the reinvigoration of the United Nations Organisation." (Reuter)

Worry over anti-Semitic surge: A group of French intellectuals concerned by the recent surge of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union launched a humanitarian appeal on Thursday to help Soviet Jews emigrate.

"Exodus 90," signed by Nobel peace prize laureate Elie Wiesel and 43 other writers, film-makers, philosophers and historians, said Israel was the only country to open its doors to Soviet Jews.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's programme of perestroika has been accompanied by a surge in anti-Semitism by native Russians, said writer Antoine Spire, citing a leaflet calling for a pogrom in Moscow and Leningrad on May 5.

"Jews are living in a permanent state of fear and anxiety that programs will happen again," Spire said. (AP)

Moroccan hijacker gets one year: A court in Spain's Canary Islands gave the lone gunman who hijacked a Moroccan passenger plane last September a one-year suspended jail sentence on Wednesday.

Moroccan Nannu Almarki told the court he hijacked the plane to the Canary Islands, armed with a toy machine-gun, to flee repression by Moroccan rulers in the former Spanish territory of Western Sahara.

His lawyer said 38-year-old Almarki feared his family would be persecuted by Moroccan authorities because of his participation in the resistance for Western Sahara. The Polisario Front, fighting Morocco for the same cause, denied links with him. (Reuter)

Latin America

Panama lashes out: Panama lashed out Wednesday against Latin American pressure to hold new presidential elections, charging nations in the region with "flagrant intervention."

Seven countries told Panama last week that it should schedule elections to "legitimise" the US-installed government of President Guillermo Endara. Endara became president in December when a US invasion ousted Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, who annulled last year's election results when it was clear Endara was beating Noriega's candidate 3-1.

"President Endara's regime doesn't emanate from that military action. It comes from the will of the Panamanian people," Foreign Minister Julio Larrea said Wednesday at a news conference. (AP)

Cuba will never make concessions: Cuban President Fidel Castro was quoted Wednesday as saying his hardline communist government will never make concessions to capitalism, which he compared to cutting off an arm.

"The Cuban revolution will not experience submission or concessions," Castro was quoted by the Cuban government news agency Prensa Latina as saying.

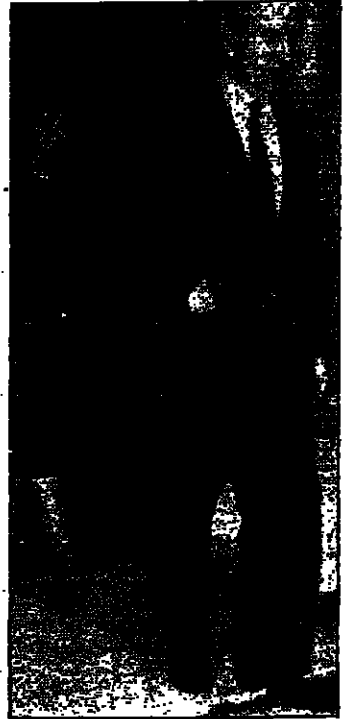
"We don't want to return to being a dependent country, of owners and masters. We don't want to follow this dishonourable path," he said. "There can be happiness, dignity and joy only in liberty. The slave doesn't know happiness or respect."

The Cuban leader made his remarks to the thousands of youth in Havana to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Communist Youth League. Prensa Latina was monitored in Mexico City. (AP)

Mexico rivals abandon town halls: Leftist militants faced by thousands of Mexican troops backed by armoured cars and light tanks, on Thursday abandoned the town halls they had occupied for months, handing a political victory to President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

"Seventeen town halls have been peacefully evacuated," State Attorney-General Ricardo Olor Romero said, adding that no injuries had been reported during the operation in the Pacific coast state of Michoacan.

Early on Thursday federal officials ordered troops into the town squares of municipalities throughout Michoacan where protesters had occupied town halls, charging that the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) used fraud to rob them of local offices in December elections. (Reuter)



Michael Joyce. (Reuter wirephoto)



Surgeon Bewick leaves the hearing in London. (Reuter wirephoto)

Kidneys-for-sale

Doctor banned

LONDON, April 6, (Reuter): Millionaire doctor Raymond Crockett, who helped persuade four Turkish citizens to sell their kidneys for transplant in a spare parts surgery scandal, was banned from medical practice in Britain on Wednesday.

The General Medical Council (GMC), which said Crockett had dishonoured British medicine, also censured surgeons Michael Bewick and Michael Joyce who performed the transplants but said they could continue to work.

The Turks, three men and a woman, received between £2,500 and 3,500 (\$4,100 and 5,750) each to donate kidneys for private patients who paid up to £66,000 (\$100,000) for transplants.

GMC lawyer Roger Henderson told a disciplinary hearing by the council's Professional Standards Committee that a world-wide shortage of organs for transplant had created a situation in which "the unhealthy rich could prey upon the poor."

The GMC found Crockett guilty of flouting a ban on the sale of non-regenerative organs such as kidneys. It said the two surgeons did not ensure guidelines were met.

Crockett, 52, who has homes in England, Switzerland and Sardinia, built up a lucrative practice in London's Harley Street that catered to an international private clientele.

He denied charges that he arranged payments for kidney brokers and advertised in an Egyptian newspaper for donors.

The GMC was told that kidney dialysis and transplant facilities offered by six private London hospitals had brought them huge profits as a result of increasing demand.

Turkey alone spent £4 million (\$6.5 million) in Britain in 1987 and 1988 on government-sponsored kidney patients. It paid cheques worth £500,000 (\$800,000) in 1988 to Crockett and the National Kidney Centre where he was medical director.

Cancer test doesn't work

Method in doubt

BOSTON, April 6, (AP): Four years ago, a new test that seemed to detect all forms of cancer from tiny blood samples appeared destined to revolutionize the way doctors screen people for the disease.

Now, many specialists doubt the method will ever live up to its promise. For reasons they cannot explain, the test seems to work only in the hands of the physician who invented it.

In 1986, Dr Eric T. Fossel of Boston's Beth Israel Hospital said he had found a way to tell whether a patient had cancer simply by examining a bit of his blood in nuclear magnetic resonance scanner, or NMR. It would detect tumours too small to feel, or spot on X-Rays.

Fossel continued to work on the method and reported more encouraging results as he tested thousands of blood samples.

The discovery was so important that many other doctors hurried to try it out. Apparently without reported exception, they failed.

Two studies published in yesterday's New England Journal of Medicine — the journal that first described Fossel's apparent breakthrough — add to the mounting evidence against it.

"We were unable to determine whether or not a person had cancer based on the blood test," said Dr Paul Okunieff of Massachusetts General Hospital.

Carefully mirroring Fossel's methods, Okunieff tested blood from 79 people with cancer or pre-cancerous diseases and 66 people in the hospital for other reasons. The test could not tell them apart.

Teige Engan directed a Norwegian group from the University of Trondheim that conducted a similar comparison of blood from 104 cancer patients and 164 healthy people. When the people studied were the same sex and age, the test could not distinguish those with cancer from those without.

In his report, Okunieff reviewed 18 studies, including his own, that have used NMR to diagnose cancer. Only six — all by Fossel — worked.

In one of those studies, published last year, doctors from the West German Cancer Centre in Essen sent blood samples to Fossel from 54 men with testicular cancer, 88 men who had been successfully treated for the disease and 57 healthy men the same age.

Fossel, who had no information about the patients' status, conducted the NMR tests and sent back the results. The German doctors found the Fossel's findings were 90 per cent accurate.

"I honestly don't know what went wrong, but there is this big difference between what he's getting and what other people reported," commented Dr Robert Shulman of Yale University School of Medicine.

Physical check-up wristwatch

TOKYO, April 6, (Reuter): A physical check-up "wristwatch" for the elderly is to be developed by the Industrial Science and Technology Agency, it was announced today.

Scientists believe that a small physical sensor checking blood pressure, body temperature, pulse and breathing will allow the elderly to enjoy life more fully without fear of over-exerting themselves.

The device, which will be worn like a wristwatch, will also record such activities as walking, sports, bicycling and taking a bath.

If the sensor picks up on something unusual, it will activate a warning device and send data to the family and hospital.

هكذا مثلاً

Police defuse bomb in Bogota

BOGOTA, Colombia, April 6, (Agencies): Police defused a truck bomb containing more than a half-ton of dynamite that had been planted by drug traffickers hoping to destroy several blocks of wealthy Bogota neighbourhood.

Military armour and patrols poured out of army bases and into the streets minutes after the Thursday morning attempt.

Interior Minister Haracio Serpa, who police said escaped being a victim by minutes, called an emergency meeting of the National Security Council. He is acting president while President Virgilio Barco is in Europe on a state visit.

Federal Sen. Federico Estrada, 63, who was kidnapped by drug traffickers last Tuesday in Medellin, was released unharmed Thursday in that northwestern Colombia city, home of Medellin's cocaine cartel.

In a communique, traffickers had threatened to murder him if police did not release four of their associates.

Police have denied detaining the four, and the reason for Estrada's being freed was not clear.

Gunmen working for the Medellin cartel killed another policeman Thursday in Medellin, bringing to 15 the number of officers killed there since Monday.

Police chief Col Carlos Alberto Otalora of Medellin says the cartel is paying \$4,300 for each officer killed.

Most of a surge of violence believed drug-related has been concentrated in Medellin.

On Wednesday, gunmen entered a tavern and began shooting indiscriminately. Two doctors, a university professor, an engineer and two waiters were killed and two people wounded.

Police found five shot bodies at a downtown soccer field and three bodies on the city outskirts of the city. Two bodies were found in a northern neighbourhood known as a centre for gangs of hired murderers. An off-duty soldier was shot dead.

Authorities have not established responsibility for the massacres, but similar killings have been carried out by rival gangs working for drug traffickers.

Police yesterday sent 600 reinforcements to the city of 2 million inhabitants to try to control the bloodshed.

The cartel said last week it would kill police officers and explode a bomb in a wealthy section of Bogota in retaliation for the government's continued repression of traffickers.

At 7:15 am (1215 GMT) Thursday, police officers patrolling a main avenue in northern Bogota saw two men hastily abandon a truck with its motor running.

In the back of the truck, police found about 1,100 pounds (500 kg) of dynamite buried under a load of toilet paper and hand soap, a police lieutenant on the scene told the Associated Press.

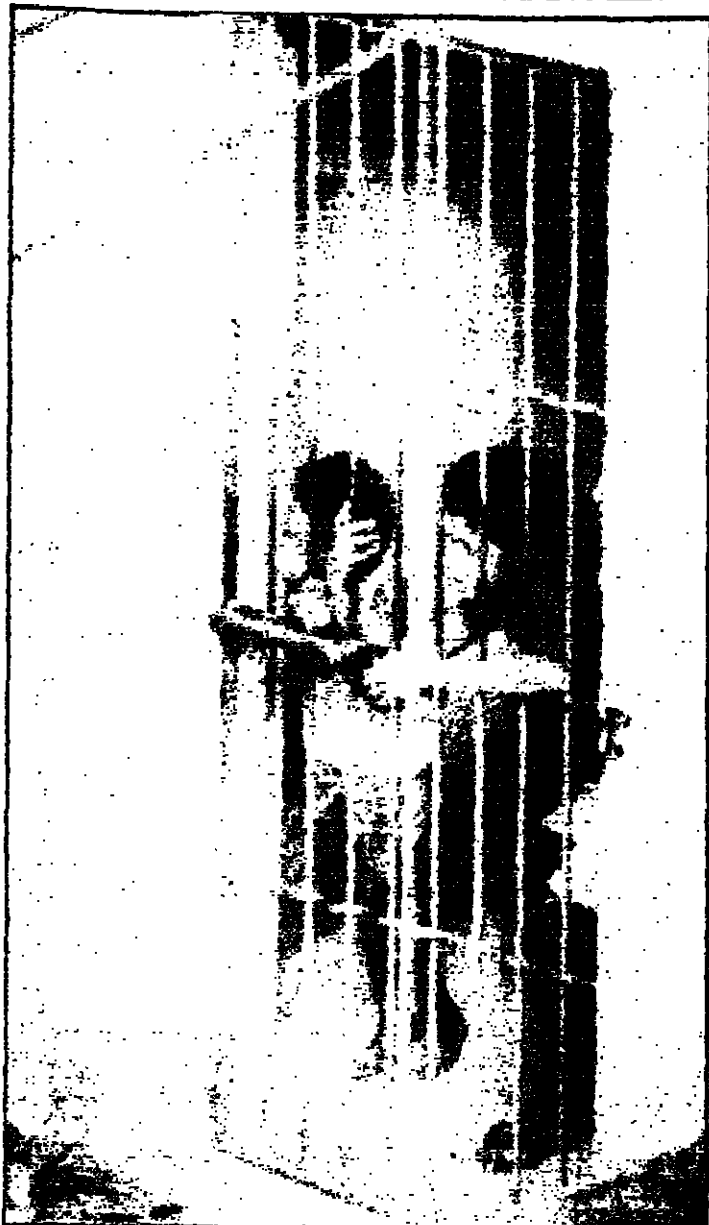
■ **Militia** A Haitian soldier slipped away from a command-deer American airlines jet early on Thursday minutes before security forces boarded the plane to end a bizarre three-day standoff at Port-Au-Prince airport.

Police said the soldier, identified as 20-year-old Pierre Gerald, had leaped off the aircraft and vanished into the darkness as security forces prepared to remove him.

■ **Peru** The most talked-about development in the final weeks of the presidential campaign is the sudden popularity of Alberto Fujimori, a Japanese-Peruvian who two months ago barely registered a blip in public opinion polls.

Fujimori is a 51-year-old agricultural engineer and former rector of the National University of Agriculture. The son of Japanese immigrants, Fujimori is one of the 90,000 Japanese-Peruvians who make up the second-largest Japanese colony in Latin America.

■ The senate voted Thursday to authorise \$770 million in economic aid for Panama and Nicaragua but put off action on actually providing the money President Bush requested for the two Central American nations.



Street children round up

Rio authorities have begun rounding up homeless children and placing them in state shelters, a move that has outraged human rights advocates who are turning to the courts to win freedom for the youngsters.

An estimated six million children live in the streets of Brazil's main cities, including about 250,000 in Rio. They beg or shine shoes to make a living and often get drawn into the world of crime.

In an effort to help them, Liborri Siqueira, a minors judge, has ordered that children up to the age of six be rounded up and placed in state institutions, such as the State Foundation of the Education of the Minor (Feem). Those children who have parents are being sheltered with their mothers.

The order, issued on March 8 but carried out in the past 10 days, has met with outrage from human rights activists, the church and the press who argue that the programme amounts to incarceration of children.

Picture shows two abandoned children standing behind bars in a juvenile holding cell. (Reuter wirephoto)

'It's a baby girl'

Conceived to save daughter

LOS ANGELES, April 6, (AP): A baby girl was delivered to a couple who conceived the child to serve as a bone marrow donor for her leukaemia-stricken older sister, a relative said yesterday.

The chance that a bone marrow transplant will cure 18-year-old Anissa Ayala has been reported as between 70 and 80 per cent. Tests showed her new sister's marrow was compatible.

Abe and May Ayala revealed eight weeks ago that they had conceived the baby, named Marissa Eve, as a last resort to save Anissa's life.

The Ayalas live in the Los Angeles suburb of Walnut with Anissa and a 19-year-old son, Airon. None of the four have compatible marrow.

The baby was born Tuesday night at Queen of the Valley Hospital in the Los Angeles suburb of West Covina, said the couple's niece, Lydia Sanchez.

"She's beautiful, she looks just like Anissa," Sanchez said. The Ayalas chose Eve as a middle name "because Eve means life," she added.

Anissa's leukaemia has remained stable, said Dr Patricia Konrad. She said he is likely to perform the transplantation in six months at the City of Hope National Medical Centre in the Los Angeles suburb of Duarte.

"We have no reason to do it (of time) because Anissa is doing quite well right now," Konrad said.

Accord on peace talks

Ten more killed in black fighting: Coup in Venda

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa, April 6, (AP): New fighting between black factions in Natal today left at least 10 people dead, despite pleas for peace from President F.W. de Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela.

De Klerk and Mandela agreed in Cape Town to go ahead with talks on ending white-minority rule. The two leaders hailed the agreement as a breakthrough and called for an end to violence that has left hundreds dead in recent weeks.

The ANC is calling for an end to the state of emergency and other measures before it agrees to full-scale talks.

De Klerk legalized the ANC and other outlawed black opposition groups in February, shortly before Mandela was released from jail. The president says he wants to share political power with blacks and end all judicial forms of racial segregation.

The two leaders said a date for new talks would be announced shortly. The Citizens newspaper reported today that De Klerk and Mandela agreed to start formal talks April 25. Government officials could not be reached for comment.

The government has warned that the wave of violence sweeping South Africa in recent weeks poses a major threat to political stability and negotiations on ending white-minority rule. De Klerk's meeting with Mandela and a decline in violence in recent days stirred hopes that the unrest was subsiding.

The ANC had pulled out of talks planned for April 11 to protest police firing on a black protest March 25. Nine people were killed in the confrontation.

Many South African officials and observers believe the ANC cancelled the meeting because of disagreement within its ranks about how to proceed with negotiations.

In addition to Mandela, De Klerk had been scheduled to meet Thursday with six homeland leaders, but four did not attend.

Mandela denied De Klerk's charge that the ANC pressured tribal homeland leaders not to meet with the government.

Mandela and other ANC leaders have called for unity among all black political factions in order to present a solid front. The ANC says dividing black South Africans into 10 tribal areas deprives blacks of their citizenship, land ownership and work rights and leaves the majority of the country for whites.

Thursday, Venda, the smallest of the so-called independent homelands, reportedly became the third of South Africa's four nominally independent homelands to experience a military coup in the past 2-1/2 years. The fourth, Bophuthatswana, underwent an attempted coup in February 1988, but the President, Lucas Mangope, was rescued by South African police.

The clashes pit rival Zulu factions of the conservative Inkatha movement against the United Democratic Front, which is allied to the ANC. Both groups oppose apartheid, but differ over tactics and plans for a future South Africa.

De Klerk said last night the two leaders discussed the political violence "frankly and clearly... I had the impression that there is a general agreement that violence had to come to an end and that there was a need for creating an atmosphere in which normal political



Tutu tours a camp housing refugees who have fled Natal recently. (Reuter wirephoto)



Mandela (left) and ANC delegation members Trevor Manuel and Ahmed Kathrada (right) address a press conference April 5 (Reuter wirephoto)

UK package for HK

225,000 will be given British residency

HONG KONG, April 6, (AP): Intense interest in a British emigration proposal seemed to indicate Hong Kong residents are increasingly interested in a future outside of the territory once it becomes part of Communist China.

The British Government announced Wednesday details of a package to pave the way for an estimated 225,000 Hong Kong Chinese living in its colony to be granted residency rights in Britain.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has supported the plan by saying Britain has a "solemn duty" to the colony before it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. But the package faces stiff opposition and possible defeat in the British Parliament.

The unveiling of the plan grabbed more media attention here than the Chinese legislature's vote Wednesday to finally approve the basic law by which Beijing will govern the territory after the change in sovereignty.

While the final draft of the basic law was reached several weeks ago, details of the nationality package were previously unknown.

Many newspapers featured detailed front-page coverage of the British nationality plan. The respected Ming Pao daily news

ran the entire text of the selection procedure on its front page, and some newspapers included tables that explained the point system under which passports would be allotted to people holding key positions in Hong Kong.

The package "would go some way to alleviating Hong Kong's emigration problem by giving key people confidence to stay in Hong Kong," the Hong Kong government said in a statement. Officials estimate about 1,000 people emigrate each week, including many of the colony's best educated.

The legislature's special working group on nationality issued a statement expressing disappointment over the limited scope of the package but acknowledging that "any measure designed to encourage people to remain in Hong Kong would go some way toward reducing the brain drain."

It added that London had "the moral responsibility to provide a safe and secure future for the entire population of Hong Kong."

The basic law is designed to guarantee that the territory can maintain its capitalist system for 50 years and enjoy a "high degree of autonomy" after 1997.

The constitution has been widely criticised for not being

democratic enough and for an anti-subversion clause that is viewed as a means for Beijing to assert political control over the territory.

"Hong Kong people have not been that enthusiastic in the basic law from the very beginning. Its promulgation just marks the end of the drafting era," an editorial in the Hong Kong Economic journal said.

Thatcher's government faces a serious threat of defeat at the hands of Conservative Party rebels over a bill to grant full British citizenship to up to 225,000 Hong Kong residents.

The opposition Labour Party, denouncing the proposed legislation as "elitist," decided on Wednesday to join the rebels and declared it would vote against the bill when it is debated in the House of Commons on April 18.

Hong Kong legislators said on Thursday they would continue to press Britain for full citizenship for all the colony's 3.25 million British passport holders.

The legislators, responding to publication of a registered British government nationality package on Wednesday, said Britain had a duty to protect the interests of all its subjects in the colony, which reverts to China in 1997.

Chinese exiles launch campaign

PARIS, April 6, (AP): Exiled leaders of China's pro-democracy movement said yesterday communist government was likely to succeed in repressing commemorations of last year's massacre in Beijing.

In hopes of intensifying international pressure on the government, the exiles disclosed details of a multi-faceted campaign to publicise their movement and broadcast pro-democracy radio programme into China.

They also confirmed that Chai Ling, a leader of the protests that were crushed last June, was in Paris after escaping from China with her husband.

Yan Jiaqi, chairman of the Federation for Democracy in China, said at a news conference that Chai, 23, was in poor health after nine months in hiding and would not make public appearances until she had recovered. He said security reasons were not a factor in her decision to remain out of sight since her arrival in Paris this week.

Yan and his colleagues said a radio boat dispatched from France last month had passed through the Suez Canal en route to the waters off China and was expected to begin broadcasts by the end of the month.

They also announced plans for numerous cultural and academic events over the next several months aimed at building up worldwide interest in the anniversary of the massacre in Beijing.

They joined several French human rights activists last evening at the opening of an exhibition of photographs taken in Beijing as the pro-democracy movement mushroomed, then was crushed.

The Chinese embassy in Paris filed a formal protest, the French Foreign Ministry said without elaboration. The French ambassador to Beijing has been summoned 16 times since June by Chinese officials irritated by France hosting the exiles.

Several of the exiled activists are helping organise a four-day conference to begin in Berlin on April 20.

Chai was quoted yesterday, in an exclusive interview with a Taiwan newspaper, as saying the protest campaign last year might have succeeded if it had come after the upheavals in Eastern Europe.

Tiananmen square reopened to the public today, but police remained on alert against attempts to honour the victims of the Tiananmen democracy movement crushed by military force last year.

The vast square was sealed off all day yesterday for the Qingming festival, a day when Chinese traditionally pay respects to their dead.

Belgium Parliament restores King Baudouin as country's monarch

BRUSSELS, April 6, (AP): The legislature yesterday restored King Baudouin as the country's monarch at the end of a two-day suspension he requested to avoid having to sign a law legalising abortion in Belgium.

At a joint session of parliament's two chambers, 245 legislators voted to return the king to the throne.

There were no votes against the monarch, but 93 lawmakers abstained and 58 were absent. The two chambers contain 396 legislators.

A simple majority of 199 was required to

restore King Baudouin to power. But it came with some parliamentarians' sharp criticism of Baudouin's move and a renewed effort to curtail some powers of the monarch.

At the request of King Baudouin, a devout Catholic, the government suspended the monarch on Wednesday, then passed the abortion bill itself and called on the legislature to restore the king.

The manoeuvre let King Baudouin follow his conscience by not giving royal

asset to the abortion bill. Such asset turns bills into laws.

Before the vote, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said his center-left government will seek changes in the constitution to prevent future refusals by the king, on moral grounds, to endorse legislation.

He did not elaborate in comments to the joint session of the 184-member senate and 212-member chamber of representatives.

However, the government may want the monarchy's powers, already largely

ceremonial, reduced even further, possibly by removing the need to give bills royal assent before they become law.

"To prevent a recurrence of similar problems in the future, the government intends to propose (to parliament) a structural change" in the constitution, Martens said.

Legal experts say the king cannot cast aside his constitutional role on moral grounds, only if he is physically or mentally unable to rule.

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EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

PERFECTION is attained by slow degrees. It requires the hand of time — Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778).

Tireless traveller
Bush always
on the move

WASHINGTON, (Reuter): George Bush is setting a blistering travel pace rarely seen in US history. The president thinks nothing of flying across the United States or even to other countries to slap a few backs and say a few words.

On one day recently he went to a political lunch in New York, a political dinner in San Francisco and stayed overnight in Los Angeles. This was his route to Palm Springs for talks with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Trip

This month, he is due to make a day trip to Bermuda to confer with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, another day trip to Key Largo, Florida, to see French President Francois Mitterrand, then the next day to Birmingham, Alabama, for an appearance and on to Islamorada, Florida, for some fishing.

Many of Bush's trips are designed to help fellow Republicans in November's US congressional elections. But he also hopes to visit Latin America and Australia in 1990 over and above the places he will go as the spirit moves him.

But this is only a small part of a rigorous White House travel schedule this year.

"I must tell you that I really do like to travel outside the Beltway," Bush, 65, told reporters recently, referring to the highway around Washington.

Since entering office 14 months ago, Bush has been to 16 foreign countries and 36 states — visiting some places more than once and travelling on average, one day in three.

This is, however, slower than the pace he set in eight years as US vice-president. As Ronald Reagan's number two, Bush visited 74 countries and all 50 states, logging a total of two million km (1,312,125 miles) in the air.

Duties

One of his duties as Reagan's deputy was to attend funerals of foreign leaders — an obligation that once prompted Bush to remark facetiously: "You die — I fly."

"I think he believes that diplomacy is best accomplished on a personal basis and that politics is best handled in that way, too," said White House spokesman Stephen Hart.

Reagan, who disliked flying, generally made only one or two foreign trips a year and less than 20 domestic jaunts, many of these to his beloved California.

Critics have charged that Bush's travel is calculated to create a motion his administration lacks but Hart said it was part of the president's style of governing.

"He loves to get out and mingle with people. It helps expand his perspective both domestically and internationally," Hart said.

When a president goes on the road, the logistics and costs are staggering. While any plane carrying the US leader uses the radio call sign Air Force One, Bush usually flies aboard a modified, 47-passenger version of the Boeing-707 jetliner that costs \$5,287 an hour to operate.

A new Boeing-747 jet that seats 70 is scheduled to replace this plane on Sept 30.

Pays

An air force spokesman said the Republican Party pays for presidential travel and lodging on purely political trips. But most domestic trips combine politics and official business and costs are shared by the party and the taxpayers.

These expenses are minor compared to support costs, which run into at least six figures on virtually every presidential foray. For whenever a US leader travels, he is accompanied by a backup aircraft, a plane that transports his armoured limousine and security vans from place to place and another transport for helicopters.

In addition, the president is accompanied by a chartered press plane paid for by news organisation covering the trip.

Bush travelled to Colombia in February for a one-day drugs summit, brushing aside aides' concerns about the danger of visiting that embattled country. He slept on his plane at Andrews Air Force Base the night before the trip so he could get an early start.

White House sources say Bush plans a return trip to Latin America in September, but will not say exactly where.

Nicaragua, where a pro-US government is scheduled to take power on April 25 after a decade of leftist Sandinista rule, is said to be among the possible stops, along with Argentina and Uruguay.

TODAY IN HISTORY

1509 — France declares war on Venice.

1652 — Dutch under Van Riebeeck found Cape Town in South Africa.

1789 — Selim III of Turkey accedes to throne.

1897 — Turkey declares war on Greece.

1934 — Mahatma Gandhi suspends civil disobedience campaign in India.

1936 — Cape Parliament passes native representation bill permitting natives to elect three Europeans to represent them in Union Parliament in South Africa.

1941 — British forces under Archibald Wavell evacuate Benghazi in Libya during World War II.

1945 — US aircraft carrier planes sink Japan's largest battleship, the Yamato, in World War II.

1953 — Dag Hammarskjöld, Swedish diplomat, is elected secretary-general of the United Nations.

1961 — UN General Assembly condemns South Africa's policies in South-West Africa; Milovan Djilas, former number two man of Tito regime in Yugoslavia, is arrested.

1966 — US hydrogen bomb lost from bomber is recovered in Mediterranean Sea off coast of Spain.

1974 — Major oil producing countries meeting in Geneva decide to set up fund for developing nations hard hit by higher petroleum prices.

1976 — China's deputy prime minister Deng Xiaoping is deposed and Hua Guofeng named prime minister.

1987 — President Ronald Reagan announces that American diplomats will not occupy the new embassy in Moscow until he is sure that it is secure from Soviet eavesdropping.

1988 — Iran and Iraq bomb each other's capitals and other towns, killing and wounding scores of people.

1989 — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev concludes three-nation tour with lunch with Queen of England.

First multi-party elections since World War II

Slovenia goes to the polls

LJUBLJANA, Yugoslavia, (Reuter): Yugoslavia's maverick republic of Slovenia on Sunday holds the country's first multi-party elections since World War II, ushering in a new era of democracy after 45 years of communist rule.

Seventeen political parties and groups of all shades will contest the elections in the northwestern republic that could oust Slovenia's communists, even though they have changed their name and split from the crumbling federal party.

Local officials in Ljubljana, Slovenia's capital, say a coalition government is likely because no party looks strong enough to win outright.

Majority

They say the ex-communists are unlikely to get a majority in Parliament but may buck the trend in Eastern Europe by putting up a respectable fight because they have long been pro-reform.

The polls could also change the face of Yugoslavia because factions in the main opposition groups advocate Slovenia's secession from the rest of this Balkan federation — the key question dominating the election campaign.

"It's impossible to predict how Yugoslavia will look at the end of this year," said one Western diplomat. "It may be a federation, a confederation or it may not exist at all."

Elections follow two weeks later in Croatia and some other republics are expected to hold elections in the next year.

In Slovenia, the 17 parties and groups will be running for 240 seats in the regional Parliament. Four candidates, including former regional Communist Party chief Milan Kucan, are contesting the post of president of the republic.

Opposition

The main opposition forces are the Democratic Opposition of Slovenia (Demos) anti-communist coalition and the Greens of Slovenia, an environmentalist party which led in a newspaper opinion poll this week.

The main left-wing groups are the ex-communists, who split from the Yugoslav Communist Party and renamed themselves the Democratic Reform Party (DRP) in February, and the Liberal Party — a former communist front organisation.

All are opposed by independent candidate Ivan Kramberger, a rich inventor who, dressed in black, often rides around Ljubljana on a bicycle with his pet monkey. He told his rivals on local television recently that they send him to sleep.

Independent groups have blossomed since Slovenia, which has strong Western European cultural and historical roots, became the first republic last year to allow opposition parties. Slovenia has long been at odds with more conservative republics by advocating considerably more radical democratic reforms, including press freedoms and



political and economic changes.

"I doubt whether any party will get an absolute majority in Slovenia so there will be some sort of coalition in Parliament," a Slovene political analyst said.

"It's not that people necessarily trust the new parties, most of whom have little or no political experience, but the same instinctive anti-communism that is present elsewhere in Eastern Europe also exists in Slovenia."

Mongolian reform unnerves China

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia, (AP): When Genghis Khan's Mongol warriors swept south in the 13th century, even China's Great Wall could not keep them out.

China again is on guard against Mongolia, but the new forces of democracy and nationalism bursting forth from here may prove just as hard to keep out.

"There are grounds for China to worry. Democracy is infectious," said one pro-democracy activist, Lamjar, who like most Mongolians uses one name.

He is a leader of the Social Democratic Movement, one of several new opposition groups that have forced Mongolia's ruling communists to initiate political reforms like their Soviet allies. Recently, Mongolia's leaders promised free elections.

Chinese leaders, who used tanks and guns to put down their own democracy movement last June, are already worried about the weakening or fall of communist parties in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

Mongolia's protests have brought the trend to China's border, with a potentially receptive audience among the 3.5 million ethnic Mongols in

Chinese Inner Mongolia.

Already they are being exposed to a potent mix of democratic ideas and Mongol pride via newspapers, radio broadcasts and even pop music from Mongolia.

One of Mongolia's biggest hits is a nationalist paen to the "Great Emperor, Lord Genghis, our ancestor," which mourns, "We (Mongolians) have become pitiable. Forgive us."

Mongolian sources who travel frequently to Inner Mongolia said Beijing clearly is worried. They said China has sharply cut travel by its citizens to Mongolia, and has stepped up surveillance of its Mongol minority.

At stake is stability not only in Inner Mongolia but in other border regions populated by traditionally more restive minorities — the Tibetans and Uyghurs.

"Unrest is impossible," said a man with relatives in Inner Mongolia, noting that Chinese now outnumber Mongols there.

But he and other cross-border travellers said China's Mongols are far from assimilated, although many dress like Chinese and speak Chinese.

"They always look to outer Mongolia," said an

intellectual. "A Mongol is always a Mongol."

Reminding the two Mongolias is not part of the public programme of the new opposition groups in Ulan Bator, despite the new nationalist climate.

"In every Mongolian exists such a dream," said one activist. "But to talk about it openly is dangerous."

For centuries the only relationship between Mongolia and China was that of ruler and ruled. Genghis Khan's successors ruled China for a century; China later invaded Mongolia. But the nomadic Mongols were always more resistant to China's Confucian influence than other East Asian peoples.

They turned to the Soviet Union for help in gaining independence under a communist government in 1921. Inner Mongolia, with a heavier Chinese presence, stayed under Beijing.

After China's communist revolution in 1949, Ulan Bator and Beijing briefly became friends, but when the Soviet Union split with China in the early 1960s, Mongolia did too. As late as 1983, Mongolia ordered 2,000 ethnic Chinese living in Ulan Bator to work on state farms or go back to their motherland. Most left, with China protesting the expulsions.

Letters to the editor

Approb seminar

SIR: This is in response to the letter published in your newspaper of 3/4/90 criticising the holding of the seminar by Approb. I am an avid reader of your newspaper in Dubai and a frequent visitor to Kuwait. I follow most of the events and read with explicit interest the issues raised in the columns of your "Letters to the Editor".

The author of "Evening of Despair", I think, is a propagator of emotional direct propaganda. He has tried to describe the object in such terms as to arouse towards it the emotions desired by propagandists. There are associated dangers with the kind of propaganda Dr Haider Mehdi has resorted to. In the first place, it is just as easily used in a bad cause as in a good one, but the kind of emotions he is trying to arouse cannot but be an obstacle to sensible behaviour. His propaganda tends to close the minds to a genuine too. There is absolutely no doubt that certain amount of uncompensated propaganda is necessary for the minimum of social cohesion, but the existence of so-called class of mediocrities like the author of the letter who assume the mantle of pseudo-intellectual by complex usage of technical jargon has to be countered.

Most of his letters in the last 2-3 months have been critical of the establishments like his assault on the cause of Afzal Nour's proposal, the personality cult of Benazir and failure of Pakistani policies. When mediocrities like him replace serious thinkers as the most conspicuous trend-setters and political guides, these figures make a good glossy sort of media campaign, but marks a decline in the context of intellectual process.

Criticism

His criticism of Approb is a blatant and glaring example of quantitative and qualitative decline of his self-proclaimed role as an intellectual. Criticism for the sake of criticism has become the habit of the author's approach. Approb will suffer intense criticism which is a positive sign. Lack of such response would mean disqualification of Approb objectives and non-acceptance of their goals. Intellectual thoughts, if taken seriously, are followed by severe criticism and suffering and this phenomena reflects the grace and credit of the intellectual depth of Approb.

I attended the same seminar and came all the way from Dubai and found it to be a very interesting and useful exercise in terms of maturity of ideas and diversity in approach. I fail to understand that Dr Mehdi, who was sharing the same dinner table with me, if it was so upset with the intellectual quality of the seminar stayed there for more than five hours listening to what he called "meaningless form of speeches." If an intellectual does not get his feedback from a crowd that is flawed in ideas, concepts and intellectual hospitality leaves at the first opportunity, but I think Dr Mehdi's

priorities, if he was going through that intellectual torture for five hours, were limited to enjoying the well-prepared cuisine by the expert chefs.

The chief guest himself requested the organisers that all the papers and speeches made in the seminar should be sent to him for printing in Pakistan. He repeatedly quoted that the welcome he had received in Kuwait was far beyond his expectations. Approb has done a commendable job by organising such an event on a mega scale.

The critics of Approb are men who are not doers. I think Approb would not have been criticised had the association not grown greater than its critics. If anyone wants to beat a dog he can easily find a stick; the approach unfortunately taken by Dr Mehdi is that of finding a stick. This criticism is in itself an unqualified recognition of achievement for Approb. If a scholarly view of opinions is blind opposition like that of the author's, then I would better consign his ideas to garbage and align myself with the ideals of Approb where there is hope instead of despair, construction instead of self-pity. What is questionable is that in the entire gist of his letter, he has not found a single occasion where merit may be due to organisers at least for their hospitality in inviting all of us to such an occasion.

Calibre

I should admit one thing, the seminar was a local affair and there is no doubt that the calibre of the speakers could not be matched with the invited guests but, then again, it was not the purpose of the local participants to match the competence of the chief guest. The inferiority of our age in such respect is an inevitable result of the fact that society is centralised and organised to such a degree that individual initiative is reduced to minimum. The flourishing of values in smaller Pakistani communities under organisations like Approb is a matter of pride. It leads to intellectual rivalry but without contempt for the initiative which is sincere and respectable. Without such local individual initiatives in local communities, life would increasingly become drab and monotonous.

I think Approb has worthy ambitions and if they wish to be recognised as authorities on any subject, they have to be pitted against people of higher calibre. It is then they will be aware of their shortcomings and, having come to that conclusion, will embark on an exercise to improve and sharpen their skills. The creative impulses inspired by such initiatives should remain spontaneous. Approb should ardently desire the end and not its pride into overcoming obstacles, as the Red Indians say, "There's glory in it."

I hope that those of us who are to be judges should also be performers. Instead of washing their dirty linen in open, why can't such self-assumed intellectuals be constructive for once and be doers. To be a performer or a doer it needs months of preparation, hard work, efforts, means and benevolence. The private initiative

of Approb is a mixture of hard work and benevolence, and we Pakistanis in unison support their actions. Approb is a name of positive thinking and is earning good name for Pakistan at least by organising meetings for children on Pakistan Movement and essay competition — all educational and academic exercises.

I wish Approb all the success and announce my intention to form a Chapter of Approb in Dubai. Being a professional and businessman, I hope Approb (Kuwait Chapter) will accord all necessary help.

Approb is a progressive voice against reactionaries. Therefore, should be prepared for a frontal assault from theoreticians who for the sake of their names and publicity would take Approb to task and put it on the receiving end.

Ajazuddin Shaikh (M.D.),
SAS Hotel, Room 215,
Kuwait.

Lithuanian story

SIR: In today's (April 3) Arab Times, on page 5 a bold headline read: "Lithuania rejects Kremlin demands." After that the news started as follows: Occupied Jerusalem, April 2, (Reuter): Lithuania President..... We are surprised to note how the news comes instead of writing the name of the capital of Lithuania state the Arab Times wrongly mentioned occupied Jerusalem.

I remember on another occasion when the Arab Times used the photo of Numeiri, the ousted president of Sudan and the photo caption read: Israel President Pines.

These sort of mistakes come to my notice from time to time.

We urge the Arab Times authorities to be more careful about all these incidents as this hampers the reputation of the daily.

Ziauddin Ahmad,
Safat.

Editor's note: As mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of the story, the Lithuanian President was talking to Israel Radio by telephone. The story was therefore filed from occupied Jerusalem.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Soviet Baltics
cautious on
secession

MOSCOW, (Reuter): The new pro-independence leaders of Estonia and Latvia appear determined to tread a careful path out of the Soviet Union, fearing that the hardline stance of neighbouring Lithuania may have backfired. With a deadlock between Moscow and Lithuania entering a fourth week, nationalists in the two other Baltic republics, although equally determined to recover their pre-1940 status, are embarking on more conciliatory paths.

Even in Lithuania itself, there have been signs of a realisation this week that President Vytautas Landsbergis may have antagonised unnecessarily Moscow in the way he followed up the republic's March 11 reassertion of independence.

"A lot of people here have learned from Lithuania's mistakes," said Janis Jurkans, spokesman for Latvia's Popular Front movement, which will have a majority of seats in the republic's Parliament when it convenes on May 3.

Unprepared

"They should have waited for us, so that all three Baltic republics could have moved together," Jurkans told Reuters. "They were in too much of a hurry, they were totally unprepared."

The pro-independence groups which swept to power in elections in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania this spring are united in their conviction that they have a mandate to end what they see as 50 years of "Soviet co-operation."

Their republics did not join the Soviet Union of their own free will in 1940, but were annexed and occupied, their leaders argue, making all talk of secession completely irrelevant.

For this reason, deputies from all three republics refused to join discussion of a law being debated by the Soviet Parliament on Tuesday laying out tough conditions under which any one of the 15 Soviet republics can secede.

However, the leaders of the three republics have failed to develop a formal joint strategy on seeking their freedom.

Critics in Estonia and Latvia say Lithuania was wrong, not in the way it declared independence, but in the way it followed up with a string of controversial laws and declarations.

Calls to set up Lithuanian border posts and official encouragement to young conscripts to desert from the Soviet army not only antagonised the Kremlin, but simply could not be enforced by the republic's leaders, they argued.

Caution

The substantial number of Russians and other minorities — who make up almost half the population of Estonia and Latvia, against around just 20 per cent in Lithuania — has been another reason for caution.

"It is quite clear that the Lithuanians made the crucial mistake of humiliating a great power," said Mikl Ytina, an Estonian deputy and former ideology secretary of the Estonian Communist Party.

"We are for a smoother, step-by-step path that takes into account the interests of both the Soviet Union and Estonia."

Clearly for that reason, the Estonian Parliament on Friday opted not to declare immediate independence but instead announced the start of an indeterminate "transitional period" which would end in restoration of the former Estonian state.

Fearful of trying to promise more than it could actually implement, the Estonian Popular Front, the biggest group in the Parliament, also dropped an initial plan to push for the suspension of the Soviet constitution on its territory.

Latvian Popular Front spokesman Jurkans predicted his republic's Parliament was likely to pursue a course somewhere between the Lithuanian and Estonian models when it convenes next month.

"The way things look today we shall probably declare our immediate independence next month," he said.

Negotiating

"But after setting out our aim, we will not do anything but simply start negotiating. We will not do as Lithuania did and pass laws which we cannot then easily go back on."

A conciliatory declaration, signed by Landsbergis and sent to Moscow late on Monday, suggested that the Lithuanian president may also have been taking some of this criticism to heart.

Although not withdrawing the March 11 declaration, Landsbergis called for talks with the Kremlin and stressed that the republic had never really expected full independence overnight.

The unanimous position of Members of Parliament is that we made this declaration and we must stand by it," said Carla Grapiotis, a Canadian of Lithuanian origin, working for the Parliament's information office.

"But leaders of Sajudis have begun to realise that they have to give a little bit," she said. "During the first two weeks they dropped diplomatic protocol and kept repeating their position again and again."

QUOTE ME

"This law presents me with a serious problem of conscience. I fear that the law will significantly diminish the respect for the lives of the weakest. You will understand, therefore, why I do not want to be associated with this law. Does freedom of conscience apply to everyone except the king?" — King Baudouin of Belgium on why he stepped down to avoid signing a law legalising abortion.

"The Soviet Union, with the aid of its army, supports a small group of its political supporters which is attempting to restore the old structures of the Soviet administration. There is therefore a threat to overthrow the legally elected authority and the government." — A statement broadcast on Lithuanian radio.

"Those who have isolated my government should themselves find isolation. They have isolated me — I shall lift my isolation and we will talk to them. They either have to remove me by force or they will have to talk to me." — Gen. Michel Aoun.

"I am really optimistic. I think conditions for the peace process are a lot better than they have been. If everything goes well and the (rebels) are willing, I don't see why it should take more than six months to resolve this problem." — Salvadoran President Cristiani on an agreement reached between the government and rebels.

Lithuania rejects Gorby plea

Reiterates offer to negotiate terms on independence

MOSCOW, April 6, (AP): Lithuania's legislature has rejected President Mikhail Gorbachev's demand to renounce its declaration of independence, and has again offered to negotiate terms surrounding its independence.

The offers were sent to Gorbachev yesterday in a letter from Lithuania's supreme council legislature.

"We realize that Lithuania's determination to rejoin the family of independent states creates concerns for the Soviet Union and for you personally, esteemed president," the

letter said, while only referring to Lithuania as a sovereign state.

"Lithuania, as before, is prepared for honest dialogue, but this should not be accompanied by the willful actions of your armed forces. Therefore, we propose to hold soon initial bilateral consultations with the goal of clarifying the positions of both sides on the questions that interest them," it said.

The letter offered to discuss Lithuania's independence in terms of international law and the Soviet constitution.

Talks on Germany, Mideast productive

WASHINGTON, April 6, (AP): Soviet concessions on Germany and the Middle East set the stage for US President George Bush to take up the tense situation in Lithuania with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze today.

A summit agenda geared to arms control accords and US help for the sickly Soviet economy also were up for discussion in Shevardnadze's third and final day of talks here.

Bush yesterday scheduled his second summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev for May 30 to June 3. White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the President would express his concerns about Lithuania "for carefully and directly" to the Soviet leader.

Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, indicated to reporters that Secretary of State James Baker already had raised US concerns about the use of Soviet force to stop Lithuania's independence campaign.

Shevardnadze was likely to hear more in a call at the White House today. Shevardnadze also was meeting with Baker again to clear away obstacles to a trio of arms control accords and set the stage for the Washington summit.

The outlook brightened yesterday at the State Department as the two sides broke new ground on Germany and the Middle East.

Accepting the principle of unifying East and West Germany, the Soviets edged away from their demand that the merged country be neutralized, US and Soviet officials said.

In another potential breakthrough, the Soviets said they would consider restoring diplomatic relations with Israel and permitting the direct flight of Jewish émigrés to Tel Aviv in return for assurances the refugees would not be settled on the West Bank and in occupied east Jerusalem, a senior US official said.

But the American initiative was undertaken without consulting Israel and it is not clear any Israeli government would accept restrictions on Jews living in the country's capital or on the West Bank.

Fitzwater said several major agreements could emerge at the summit, including a long-sought Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty to limit long-range nuclear weapons.

But Bush said merely that the summit would provide "time for a lot of dialogue and a lot of discussion."

Officials acknowledged that in the weeks remaining until May 30 it will be difficult to forge agreements across the board of US-Soviet relations.

But a group of US and Soviet regional experts, working at the direction of Baker and Shevardnadze, achieved surprising progress on Germany, the Middle East and the wars in Angola and Afghanistan.

On Angola and Afghanistan, US officials said the Soviets showed an interest in elections as a way of ending wars in those countries between forces backed by the two superpowers.

The Bush-Gorbachev meeting had been expected to be held in late June, but the earlier date announced yesterday shortened the time left to find ways to assist the sluggish Soviet economy.

The Soviets must enact a law guaranteeing a right to emigrate and negotiators must complete a new trade agreement for Moscow to qualify for US trade concessions. US officials said this still could be done by the time Gorbachev comes to Washington.



A Lithuanian woman clutches her list as she demonstrates opposite the general prosecutor's office in Vilnius. (Reuter wirephoto)

Army colonel testifies against Ceausescu kin, tells of carnage during protests

BUCHAREST, April 6, (Reuter): An army colonel told a court yesterday that demonstrators were shot and dragged down dark alleys by men in civilian clothes during the December uprising against Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

The testimony of Army Colonel Dorel Amariucui at the trial of Nicolae Andruța Ceausescu, the executed leader's little-known younger brother, was the first to confirm allegations of grisly violence against crowds on the night of December 21.

The colonel was in charge of an army unit in central Bucharest, where the younger Ceausescu, in

charge of cadets from the Securitate Secret Police Training School, is alleged to have shot seven people and ordered his men to fire on anti-government protesters.

Ceausescu, who faces life imprisonment if convicted, has denied these and several other charges leveled against him.

Witnesses testified earlier that Ceausescu threatened Amariucui at gunpoint to order an assault on the protesters.

"You have two minutes to launch the attack, otherwise I'll arrest you," Amariucui quoted an

agitated Ceausescu as telling him. He said his unit fired only warning shots in the air.

A dozen earlier witnesses, mostly officers and cadets from the Securitate Training School, denied seeing demonstrators being arrested or gunned down in the area.

"I saw people who seemed lifeless," Amariucui told the three-judge military court.

"I didn't know if they were dead or just wounded but they were dragged in front of my eyes by the scruff of their necks like sacks of potatoes,"

asked by the judge if he saw any arrests, he replied: "Not in any civilized sense of the word. I just saw people being badly molested, even the injured. They were beaten up with sticks and dragged away by people in civilian clothes carrying sticks and by militia."

King Michael of Romania will visit his country next week for the first time since 1947, when the communists forced him to abdicate the throne and go into exile, his personal secretary said yesterday.

"King Michael is, of course, very happy that he can now again visit his country," the secretary said.

As protesters chanted "we are not half-Germans," the country's freely-elected parliament asked Prime Minister-designate

Lothar de Maiziere to form the first non-communist government after 40 years of Stalinist rule.

At the first session of the new Volkskammer, another member of De Maiziere's election-winning Christian Democrats (CDU), Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, was chosen by the 400-member Parliament to be its first woman speaker.

"We are witnesses to a moment of great historical significance," said Bergmann-Pohl after her election as Volkskammer president and effectively interim head of state.

"We have been entrusted with the delicate flower of democracy which survived 50 winters," she said.

De Maiziere, whose party won more than 40 per cent of the vote in the March 18 election, will formally replace communist Prime Minister Hans Modrow when the CDU's coalition cabinet is approved by parliament, probably next Thursday.



De Maiziere (right) talks to Doctor Sabine Bergmann-Pohl. (Reuter wirephoto)

Plans for the currency union have become a major issue in both German states.

East Germans are outraged by a recommendation by the West German central bank, the Bundesbank, that they get one West German mark for every two East German marks they swap — except for a 1-to-1 conversion for limited amounts of savings.

Street demonstrations were planned in East Germany last night to underscore East Germans' demand that their currency be exchanged at par. The East Germans say a broad 2-to-1 rate could lead to impoverishment.

Hundreds of thousands of workers in East Berlin and other industrial cities demonstrated yesterday to demand that their East German marks be exchanged on an equal basis for the powerful West German currency.

As protesters chanted "we are not half-Germans," the country's freely-elected parliament asked Prime Minister-designate

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- 04 Auto Mechanic: Your specialized training prepares you for an entry-level mechanic's position...ready to move up to service manager, shop foreman, fleet supervisor...or even a business of your own.
- 18 Bookkeeping: Enjoy a satisfying career in Bookkeeping and Accounting. Learn everything you need to know—banking, payroll, inventory, taxes, how to keep a journal, make a ledger, prepare a balance sheet.
- 58 Drafting: Enjoy the security, prestige and income from this rewarding career. Master the skills of lettering, layout, architectural drawing, freehand sketching, plus how to read blueprints, use tools and much more.
- 35 Travel: Enjoy an exciting career as a travel agent, tour guide or with a hotel, airline, or resort...even start your own travel business. Learn about airlines and ticketing, scheduling travel, customer service, reservations, group travel, agency operation and much more. Tips on how you can travel free or at greatly reduced rates.
- 87 TV/VCR Repair: Get the technical training you need to enter this fast-growing field...even start your own business!
- 63 Child Day Care: Train for a rewarding career caring for children in day care centers, schools...learn crafts, creative play, nutrition, psychology and more.
- 94 Fitness & Nutrition: Make your lifestyle your career! Health clubs, resorts, and recreational centers hire people with specialized training in fitness and nutrition. Learn exercise, diet, aerobics and more!
- 07 High School: Earn your High School Diploma without quitting your job or changing your lifestyle.
- 42 Dressmaking & Design: Learn to design and make expensive-looking clothes—for yourself or others! Course covers every detail from selecting the fabric to creating original styles. Tailor fine dresses, blouses, skirts...even suits.
- 41 Journalism/Short Story Writing: Be a writer—learn successful techniques for writing fiction and non-fiction. Learn to write for newspapers, magazines, radio, television...even write speeches, advertising, publicity.
- 57 Microcomputer Repair: Get in on the ground floor of the growing computer repair business. Learn by doing with actual tools and materials. Easy-to-understand lessons give you basics to start an entry-level job in computer repair.
- 52 Surveying & Mapping: Do you enjoy the outdoors—walking, climbing, working with a group of people much like yourself? Get the essentials needed for a job in the surveying field...or use the program to prepare for your licensing exams.
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Soviet clown seeks asylum

RENO, Nevada, April 6, (AP): A clown from the Moscow circus who disappeared after the troupe ended a two-month engagement in Reno has formally expressed his wish to defect, his attorney says.

"He's applying for political asylum because he fears reprisals from expressing his political views," attorney Michael Ross said yesterday in a telephone interview.

"That's the basic reason he wants to live in America," he said, without elaborating on the particular political views of the performer, Sergei Ubanov, 28.

Ubanov is being sequestered pending approval of his application for political asylum, according to Ross, who would not reveal where the application would be filed or his client's current location.

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Kuwait to participate in international drug conference

Sheikh Salem already in London

LONDON, April 6 (Kuna): Kuwait's Interior Minister Sheikh Salem Al Sabah arrived here yesterday heading a delegation to attend an international conference on combating drug trafficking due to open next week.

On arrival, Sheikh Salem was received by a number of British officials and Kuwait's Ambassador in London Ghazi Al

Rayes.

The conference which is due to open Monday is being co-sponsored by the British government and the United Nations.

About 140 countries are expected to take part in the conference as well as some world leaders and the UN Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar. Sheikh Salem will deliver a speech at the conference focus-

ing on the Kuwait's experience in fighting narcotics and the prospects of international co-ordination in that field.

Before his departure, Sheikh Salem pointed out to Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) the importance of the three-day conference which will be attended by a number of heads of state and ministers of interior as well as the secretary general of the United

Nations Javier Perez De Cuellar.

The Kuwaiti minister pointed out that Kuwait will be presenting a working paper consisting of three main points as well as legislative conditions and means of combating narcotics, currency laundering and the importance of co-operation in buying products of countries that resort to planting drugs by providing them with farm equipment that

will enable them to cultivate their land to grow food products.

Sheikh Salem said that he will be meeting with Arab ministers of interior, who are participating in the conference, in order to discuss and agree with them on a unified Arab stance to be taken at the conference.

The minister of interior was seen off at the airport by the undersecretary of the ministry of

interior, the governors of Hawalli and Farwaniyah and top officials in the ministry.

Sheikh Salem is accompanied by a specialised delegation including several experts in the drug field and senior officials at the interior ministry. The conference is to begin on April 9 and will be inaugurated by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

GCC economies enter new era

Positive trends

THE secretary-general of the GCC Chambers of Commerce and Industry Union Mohammad Abdullah Al Mulla has said that the economies of the Gulf are expected to enter a new stage of balanced development into the decade of the nineties. This takes added significance following the entrenchment of world and regional détente as embodied in the amelioration of relations between Western and Eastern blocs, and the increasing attention by the industrial countries to put an end to Third World debts.

He told *Al Seyassah* that the Arab Gulf states have witnessed the emergence of a number of positive indications that firmly established the factors of reassurance and optimism at the regional level. The cessation of Iraq-Iran war, also led to the consolidation of economic stability in the region.

Other positive indications were the repatriation of part of the Gulf capitals invested abroad, while the oil prices continually grow better due to the growing demand for oil by the countries of Eastern European bloc and the agreement concluded by Opec to define the production ceiling at a specific level, Mulla said.

He pointed out that the Gulf budgets in 1989 were characterised by increased spending, reflecting the Gulf government's prime concern for promoting the continuity of the social and economic development process, while keeping a good level of services in constant supply to citizens.

Growth

He said that the steady growth of the non-oil production sectors and the increasing exports to the world markets led to the retreat in dependence on oil as the prime source of national income. This was accompanied by the remarkable improvement of the performance of certain main economic sectors during the 1989, after the deterioration witnessed in some commercial and re-exporting sectors.

He also said that the increasing exports of consumer commodities and rise in the prices of real estates and investment lands was conducive to the price rise of certain Gulf shares due to the closing of subscription and the establishment of financial markets in Bahrain, Oman, the UAE and Qatar.

The forthcoming stage requires an objective review of the challenges and achievements of the outgoing stage. This mainly needs the involvement of the private sector in a high-key influential role in the different economic activities, in compliance with recommendations adopted to this effect in different development schemes and programmes, the official said.

He stressed the need for the Gulf private sector to side-step the negative reflections of the past period of low economic activity, most commonly the preference towards liquid assets to fixed ones, which was responsible to abstention from entering into fixed investment enterprises.

Administration

He highlighted the importance of developing the structural components of the administrative framework at the Gulf private sector establishments through the introduction of modern administrative techniques to sort out existing inconveniences in the defiance and marketing sectors.

He added that it is very important to base investment decision on various economic projects on carefully-prepared feasibility studies defining the size of the project, the related objectives, available competition and marketing chances, urging the banking sector to responsibly shoulder its duty in replenishing the projected shortage in government investment through provision of the long-term development financing services to the private sector.

He also laid heavy stress on the need to find better marketing avenues for national products and seek the support and aid of all governments in the Gulf to provide more credit facilities and investment opportunities in the productive and service sectors. This should be based on long-term realistic outlook for the future of economic development in the region, Mulla said.

Former policeman jailed

A FORMER traffic policeman was sentenced to 28 months imprisonment for faking his police ID. The court was told that the accused Ahmad, was sacked from his job and being a non-Kuwaiti his driving licence was withdrawn from him in December 1987. However, Ahmad, 4 years later, went to the Traffic Department claiming he lost his driving licence and submitted a forged police ID.

Action Line

MY sister's husband recently died in Kuwait. She has been living here for the last 15 years on a family visa. I would like to know if my sister can stay here on my sponsorship. Will the Interior Ministry transfer the residence from her husband's name to my name? My entire family is here and if she goes back, there is no one in India to look after her. Kindly advise.

Gulam Yusuf.

ON compassionate grounds, the Department of Immigration might consider your request and transfer your sister's sponsorship from her husband's to your name. We advise you to submit the death certificate along with an application to transfer the visa. The officials will tell you what documents are required and if you can present them, the transfer of dependency may be a possibility. However, we suggest you go to the Immigration Department; its officials are in a better position to tell you whether it can be done or not.

I CAME to Kuwait in 1978 on visa No. 20. I changed to residence No. 18 in 1983. Again, I changed my residence on Feb 23, 1990. The acceptance or rejection of any application is subject to the discretion of the immigration officials. My visa is the same — No. 20. Please let me know if I can change or not.

N.A. Shafi

YOUR query is not clear. At one point you say you changed your visa from No. 20 to No. 18; in another sentence you say the visa is the same. Anyway, the 10-year exemption for transfer of residence applies to people holding visa No. 18. If you changed to No. 18 visa in 1983, you have not yet completed ten years in Kuwait and are not eligible to seek a transfer of residence without completing at least three years with the present employer.

If you are trying to change from No. 20 to No. 18 visa, you'll have to find a sponsor who'll give you No. 18 visa. Then, you must cancel your present Visa No. 20, leave the country and re-enter on the fresh work permit issued to you.

If you have been holding No. 20 visa since 1978 and did not change it to No. 18, any transfer of residence depends on whether or not your previous sponsor agrees to let you work for the new employer; if he does, then he will give you a release paper, which will be submitted by the new employer to the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour. If the ministry accepts the transfer of residence application, then the visa can be transferred.

I HAVE been in Kuwait for more than 10 years. I came here on visa No. 20 and in 1983, I changed it to visa No. 18. I want to know if I can change my job, and residence before completing three years.

N.A.S.

THE duration of 10 years stay is taken into consideration from the date of holding visa no. 18. As you changed your visa from no. 20 to no. 18 in 1983, you have not yet completed ten years continuous stay. Therefore, you don't have the right to seek a transfer of residence before completing three years service with the present employer.

I FOLLOW your articles with great interest and look forward to each of them.

Labour laws are enacted to define the rights and obligations of both employer and employee.

One of the first articles of most labour laws is to ensure that a copy of the laws be made available to the employee by the employer. Is there such a requirement in the Kuwait Labour Law?

Most of the queries seem not for an interpretation of the law regarding a specific instance but rather for a quote from the statutes. Is there an English language translation of the laws available? If so, where can it be purchased and what is the cost?

V.G. Emery

THERE is no provision in the labour law making it compulsory for an employer to provide a copy of the law to the employee. Yes, you are right. Most queries are for statutes from the law and do not seek an interpretation of the law. The labour law itself is comprehensive and favours the employees in most instances. However, sometimes its implementation by certain employers can be questioned.

There is no official translation of the labour law; however, certified translators undertake the job for a fee, which depends on many factors. Translated copies in book form are available in bookshops around Kuwait. You might be able to get a copy from the Umm Al Maradin translators; their telephone number is 2466414; 2429522. If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on 4847495.

Functional overlapping proposals approved

THE assistant undersecretary of Civil Service Commission for development of administration Dr Naser Al Sania has said that the Council of Ministers approved proposals of the work team that was set up to sort out functions between the National Housing Authority and the Savings and Credit Bank.

He added that these proposals aim at unifying the authority that grants loans for building or buying houses and for avoiding duplication of formalities between the authority and the bank.

According to these proposals the authority and bank will do their best to relinquish their condition on citizens to bring identity cards, certificates of nationality, marriage contracts, and letters from Central Statistics Department.

These will be replaced by the civil number to get the required information from the Public Authority for Civil Information (Paci) via the computer terminals at the bank and authority which are connected with Paci's computer.

Additionally, the authority and the bank will send letters to other external authorities if they desire any additional information about the applicants.

The authority will also issue the decision to allocate a land allotment and a loan for the citizen while the bank grants the loan. Headed that the authority and bank began carrying out these proposals that were approved by the government.

Procedures

On the other hand, the Kuwait Municipality and Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources reached an agreement to transfer the supervision and organisation of slaughterhouses that are now under administration of the municipality to the authority before July 1991.

They also agreed on several procedures to sort out the functions between them. Municipality will decide the limits and borders of the agricultural areas while the authority will divide these areas to land allotments besides allocating them to citizens.

The municipality will also determine places of national parks, afforestation projects while the authority supervises these projects.

The authority and municipality set up a work team to sort out the functions between them and the report of the team was approved by the chairman of the authority Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaij Al Sabah, acting director-general of municipality Sheikh Sabah Al Jaber Al Ali and the assistant undersecretary of Civil Service Commission for the development of administration Dr Naser Al Sania.

The agreement between the two parties indicates that the municipality will allocate suitable places for marketing local agricultural products in co-ordination with the authority. The authority will also specify health and technical conditions for farms and projects of animal production beside supervising these projects.

Municipality will also co-ordinate with the authority before issuing licences to place advertisements in the sites specialised for afforestation or landscaping.

3,000 tons of waste daily

VITREOUS domestic wastes in Kuwait contribute 5.2 per cent of the country's total wastes which were estimated at 3,000 tons daily. The total cost for disposing these wastes annually is around KD86,000 according to a study prepared by the Control Laboratory of industrial remains affiliated to the Environment Protection Department at the Ministry of Public Health.

Soft drink bottles discarded constitute 94 per cent of the vitreous wastes and about 1.15 per cent of these wastes are subject to the recycling process and the balance are buried. However, the study added that the recycling plant could recycle at least 60 per cent of the total waste.



Amiri medals

Director of the General Traffic Department, Brig. Abdul Hameed Al Hajji distributed medals presented by HH the Amir to 17 traffic police officers for their excellent services. Hajji called upon the honoured officers to uphold the honour and exert more efforts in the service of the country. Pictures (above) shows Hajji (right) pinning a medal on an officer and (below) all the officers pose for a group photo.



276 tons of vegetable exported

Better prices sought for local produce

THE Managing Director at Kuwait Agricultural Food Products Company Khaled Al Othman was quoted as saying that the marketing situation of local agricultural products were improving relatively.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said the marketing process is deemed as an international problem.

He clarified that since agricultural products are perishable and difficult to store, most products were available simultaneously in the market and this deprives farmers from making the targeted profits through their agricultural output. Additionally, agricultural products are from time to time exposed to severe climatic fluctuation which adversely affect crops.

However, the official has called for the adopting of several measures to improve the agricultural products marketing process, clarifying that realising of the targeted objective could be represented by halting agricul-

tural imports particularly in season and the abundance of agricultural crops. He disclosed that some actions were being taken by the authorities concerned to protect the industrial sector and identical ones should be taken to protect the agricultural sector.

Experience

He cited for example the out put of the country of cucumber during the month of April which is more than the country's requirements and said that the imports of this consumer goods should be halted during the same month.

He commented that the Kuwait Agricultural Food Products possess good experience in the marketing process and added that the company is purchasing about 26 kinds of agricultural products from the local farmers at reasonable prices through its centres set up at Wafra and Abdali areas. The company is marketing these products through 43 sales

centres in addition to the Shuwaik vegetable market.

Meanwhile, the official called for exporting of local products to Europe through flights on Kuwait Airways.

He clarified that during the peak of the agricultural season regular flights of KAC to Germany, France and Switzerland for example were carrying abroad a few passengers and this could open the door for exporting large quantities of products at cheap rates. Unfortunately he said the lowest price offered by KAC was 210 fils per kilogram and this price will make the exports process less lucrative for the Kuwaiti farmer.

However, the official expressed hopes that KAC may show more co-operation with his company by giving token for the transporting of the company's products to Europe.

He added that the company had exported about 276 tons of vegetable to Europe last year.

Food pollution in Kuwait non-existent, say experts

THE Science College at the University of Kuwait organised a symposium on food pollution. Dr Mustafa Mameesh, Dr Layla Al Omran, Dr Awadh Abdul Raheem and Dr Manaf Behbehani participated in the symposium.

At the beginning Dr Mameesh talked about the conditions placed by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on adding artificial preservatives to foods. He added that the government has a big hand in organising the process of adding such materials to foods beside making sure that they don't exceed the limits. He pointed out that governments have managed to set standards and to indicate the maximum permitted rates.

Dr Mameesh named a number of authorities which censor the implementation of standards and measurements indicating parties appointed for that purpose here in Kuwait like the Standards Committee at the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Kuwait Municipality, Protective Health Department, and the Food Testing Laboratory at the Ministry of Public Health. He stressed that Kuwait does not have any polluted foods thanks to the efforts exerted by these censoring parties.

Insecticides

Dr Awadh Abdul Raheem, on the other hand spoke about agricultural products pollution through the use of insecticides. He pointed out that studies conducted in this field stressed that agricultural blights spoil more than one third of plants each year. He stated that the Arab world alone has spent \$318 million on insecticides.

Regarding the character of these insecticides, he explained that such insecticides resist oxidation and don't dissolve in water or at high temperatures. He added that after eating already sprayed fruits for example, insecticides gather inside human tissues. An American study indicated that 98 per cent of already common world cancer cases are caused by the use of 12 agricultural insecticides. The American Environment Protection Agency announced that 85 grams of some of these insecticides is enough to kill the whole population of New York City if poured into the drinking water system. The United States have on the other hand dropped 170 grams of insecticides in Vietnam.

Dr Abdul Raheem talked about the risks behind importing insecticides from abroad. He called upon all authorities to take maximum benefit from applied research and back up information efforts towards generalising comprehensive protection.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Commerce and Industry held a meeting yesterday with vegetables and fruits merchants in Kuwait along with the attendance of officials from Kuwait Municipality in order to control the price rise of these commodities.

Assistant undersecretary for commercial affairs, Rashid Al Mejrins said that this meeting comes in order to control prices and to prevent increases. He stated that the ministry has advised merchants that commodities witnessing a rise in prices should be imported from abroad. He warned that the ministry will enforce commercial cheating law whenever it is needed.

Stricter control on food shops

THE director of Health Affairs at Kuwait Municipality Saeed Al Muhanna has said that the Foods Department has tightened control over all food-selling shops and catering companies during Ramadan. Food consumer commodities which are in high demand during this month and which are imported regularly are also checked.

He said that the municipality's competent inspection officers will carry out regular inspection visits to restaurants and food-selling shops in the pre- and post-Ramadan periods to oversee the process of food preparation and ensure that the municipality's code on food hygiene is observed.

He told local daily that the department of slaughterhouses has taken intensive technical and administrative arrangements to cope with the expected work pressure during the holy month of Ramadan, during which the daily output of these facilities doubles and the working hours change accordingly.

Authority

He said in the meantime wider authority is being granted to Food Controls at the department to facilitate the transactions of clients, cut down on obstructive formalities and sort out existing functional overlapping.

He pointed out that the Foods and Shop-Licensing Department is consistently co-ordinating with the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training to hold specialised training courses for central market inspectors and inspectors of imported foods.

He said that there is a special control programme whereby all food-selling shops will be surveyed and collected information will be entered into computers.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir initiatives

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad has said here that initiatives by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince toward sports will yield fruitful results.

In a statement to Kuna, Sheikh Nasser said the Amir and the Crown Prince have shown serious interest in extending all kinds of help to see the sports movement in Kuwait flourish and improve to reflect the shiny face of Kuwait youth.

He added that the Amir and the heir apparent have requested studies on the status of student and employed players, debts on sports clubs and the condition of sports infrastructure.

Sheikh Nasser said the request was made during a reception Wednesday for the board of directors of Al Qadisiya Sports Club Kazma Sports Club.

The reception was also attended by the national tennis team and members of the directors of Kuwait Tennis Union. Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad, the head of the Kuwaiti Olympic Committee, was also present.

Premier receives

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah received in audience at Bayan palace board chairman and members of the Kuwaiti Sea Club, chairman and members of the organizing higher committee for the third speed boats and participants in the race who presented to His Highness a memorial shield on this occasion.

Health day

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah patronized celebrations marking the international health day and health week in Kuwait, scheduled for tomorrow.

Minister of Planning Abdulrahman Al Awadi will attend the inauguration ceremony tomorrow at 9:00 pm in Al Dasma Theatre on behalf of HH the Crown Prince and Premier.

Qatari message

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Minister of Public Works Abdulrahman Ibrahim Al Houti received at his office Qatar's ambassador to Kuwait Ahmad Bin Ganim Al Romahi who handed him a message from his Qatari counterpart.

Iraqi letter

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Al Ahmad received a letter from his Iraqi counterpart Omeed M. Mubarak. It was disclosed here.

The letter, whose contents were not revealed, was conveyed by Iraqi Charge d'affaires in Kuwait during a meeting with the minister Wednesday morning.

Book fair

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammad Al Ahmad on Saturday will inaugurate the 10th Social Book Fair at the premises of Kuwaiti Social Scientists Association.

The 10-day fair will include several artistic shows and symposium to mark the passing of 10 years since the fair was first organized.

Sabah returns

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Deputy Premier, Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad returned home at dawn yesterday from a brief visit to Saudi Arabia.

Sheikh Sabah delivered a message from H.H. the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad, to Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz during a meeting attended by senior Saudi officials and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Riyadh, Abdul Rahman Al Bakr.

The Kuwaiti chief diplomat conferred while there with Crown Prince, Deputy Premier and head of the national guards Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz on fraternal ties binding the two sisterly countries and developments in the region.

KAC flights

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): Kuwait Airways Corporation yesterday announced that it will run 48 additional flights on Kuwait-Jeddah route during the fasting month of Ramadan in order to facilitate a bigger number of Muslims to perform Omrah (mini-pilgrimage).

KAC vice president for Commercial Affairs Ghazi Al Mishan said KAC traffic and reservation offices at Jeddah airport and KAC offices there were re-enforced with more employees in order to provide the best services for Ka'ba's visitors.

Indian embassy

A PRESS release from the Embassy of India in Kuwait has said that the embassy will remain closed on Saturday 7th April 1990 on the occasion of Mahavir Jayanti.

Traffic law under study for amendments shortly

Money for licences racket blown

A COMMITTEE comprising representatives of the Ministries of Justice, Interior and the Legislation and Fatwa Department are presently studying amendments to the present traffic law.

Disclosing this information, the Director General of the General Traffic Administration (GTA) Brigadier Abdul Hameed Al Hajji said that the committee is reviewing existing laws with the intention to recommend enhanced punishments, including increasing jail terms for drivers who drive at high speed and also on those who pass the red signal.

The official said that the GTA will impound any car that is parked on the pavements and this could also include con-

fiscating the driving licence of the driver. Parking on the pavement is considered to be a traffic violation and the car could be impounded for a period of up to four months.

He added that the GTA plans to increase the minimum age of people who can apply for licences. The present age limit of 18 years is universally accepted as appropriate for a licence, he added.

Renewals

The GTA does not renew the car book, if it does not meet the Gulf technical specifications of vehicles, Hajji said and added that the GTA intends to issue plate numbers in English for those cars that travel to Europe and plates can be

obtained at border centres on payment of symbolic fees.

The official said that policemen have been instructed to be civil with female drivers. They have been told that in the event any female driver refused to produce her driving licence or the car book, the traffic policemen should note down the number plate of the car and report the incident to authorities.

Meanwhile, GTD is reportedly engaged in a wide-scale investigation into a case of illegal issuance of driving permits for regular applicants, in return for KD400 or 600 in which a senior traffic official in the rank of colonel is involved.

A local daily has said that one of the

applicants who continuously failed his driving tests blew the cover off the whole business, which started a series of investigations leading to the arrest of all people involved estimated at around 110 in different police stations pending the finalisation of the ongoing quest.

The paper said that most of the people incriminated are of Jordanian nationality and that the go-between charged KD400 to 600 in return for obtaining the signature of the involved officer.

The GTD has therefore indefinitely suspended the issuance of driving permits to applicants covered by the recent GTD list of exceptions until the whole matter is sorted out.



Science against narcotics

KUWAIT is one of the countries which has been taking expanded measures to combat the narcotics blight. A national committee to combat narcotics was formed under the chairmanship of the Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem. The committee also included highly qualified and motivated members.

Major Bader Khaled Al Khaleefa from the General Criminal Evidence Department and working at the Central Criminal Laboratories Department obtained his doctorate degree from Scotland in the science of narcotics. The subject of his doctorate emphasised on the origin of hashish.

Dr Major Khaleefa joined the police force in Kuwait in 1980 after obtaining a university degree from Cairo in 1976. He took part in a number of special courses on narcotics and criminal sciences. His research is considered to be one of the rare studies in the field of police work, in addition that it is the first scientific research applying the finger print theory to assist him to reach to the origin of hashish and the place



of production.

He pointed out that his research mainly aims at reaching to the origin of the narcotic in hashish scientifically through applying analysis on the narcotic inherited characters. He stated that scientific methods are being used by narcotic gang dealers and security forces must apply science in order to face up to this challenge.

Khaleefa stressed that fighting narcotics is conducted through spreading awareness among people in addition to combating dealers themselves and the original production areas of these narcotics. He indicated that an international agreement was signed in 1961 and amended in 1972 which called for punishing countries producing narcotics on their lands.

The National Committee for the Combat of Narcotics has started a study on the feasibility of establishing a special research unit for the hereditary finger print of hashish. Picture shows an officer at the interior ministry testing narcotic substances

Medical checks on all students compulsory

HEAD of the School Health Department at the Ministry of Public Health, Dr Hussain Al Momen has stated that the ministry provides students of all educational stages with full health services. He added that the Department of School Health has a comprehensive system to combat infectious diseases and another for school health awareness.

He added that the department has started conducting comprehensive medical check ups on newly admitted students in all educational stages as of Feb 17, 1990. This programme will last until Sept 27. He indicated that the school health department medically tested a total of 508,121 students at 701 private and government schools in 1989. He said that in addition to these services the department held 349 various symposiums for a total of 75,289 students during the academic year 88/1989.

He emphasised the role played by the higher administration at the Ministry of Public Health and officials co-operation in order to achieve the maximum benefit.

Services offered by the department include the new students medical testing programme conducted at the stage before kindergarten during which the child is given a physical and health fitness certificate.

Another programme presented by the department is the general regular medical checkup usually conducted at the beginning of the academic year. A student is given a health card to keep for the rest of his school life.

The department follows up special medical cases at schools through the school clinic in addition to the infectious diseases fighting programme, supervising and censoring teaching staff and school atmosphere, holding health symposiums, and vaccinations.



Former Indian envoy

Indian businessman Anindo Mukarjee (left) hosted a lunch last week for the former Indian Ambassador to Kuwait N.N. Jha (second right) and Mrs Jha. Mr and Mrs Jha made a stopover to Kuwait on their way to Belgrade. Jha's present posting. They are pictured with their hosts and Yugoslav Ambassador Hasan Dervishbegovich (right) and Mrs Dervishbegovich (Third right).

Armed struggle only solution, says Oudeh

KUWAIT, April 6, (Kuna): A Palestinian parliamentarian has said "The Palestinian peace offensive has failed and armed struggle must be revived as the only way to liberate the land."

Mohammed Daoud Oudeh, member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) — Parliament in Exile — told a local Arab daily in an interview Wednesday, "Frankly I don't see any feasibility in what is called the peace-offensive policy."

Oudeh, known as Abu Daoud, who is member of the revolutionary council of the PLO's mainstream Fatah movement, added that "I believe we should return

to Fatah's principal ideas that call for dealing with our cause in the only way of liberating Palestine through armed struggle."

Criticism

He "strongly" criticised those, mainly Palestinians, who considered Occupied Jerusalem as a bargaining chip, noting that it is the capital of Palestine which cannot be abandoned.

He also denounced statements by Palestinian figures that the Palestinian state could become a bridge between Israel and the Arabs. "The aim of those statements is to satisfy the Americans and Zionists",

Power, water consumption up

THE assistant undersecretary for consumer affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Ali Hmoud Al Fenzhi has said that power and water consumption rises during the month of Ramadan by 10 to 15 per cent compared to the other months of the year.

He told a local daily that the immediate power and water bill payment system will be implemented in eight new branch offices during the fiscal year 1990/91, bringing the total number of bill-payment collection offices to 14.

The existing level of intra-GCC co-operation in the field of consumer affairs is progressing according to plan and that discussion is still in progress regarding the unification of the tariff, the official said.

KD80,000 spent on charity in Far East

THE head of Islamic World Committee (IWC) Abdulla Al Ateeqi has said that members of the committee paid visits to the Far East to study needs of Muslims in that area. The committee spent about KD80,000 on charitable projects last year such as relief projects, and building of mosques, schools and health centres in different areas of the world specially in the Far East. The committee guides wealthy Muslims who want to contribute and help the needy to the urgent needs of Muslims in the World. Further the plays an active role in exposing destructive organisations and movements. It also seeks to educate and teach new Muslims, and distribute Islamic books in different languages, he said.

Ateeqi pointed out that Muslim communities in East Europe suffer from the Com-

munist regimes and are in need of Islamic culture and education, mosques, orphanage houses and also informational support. He added that missionary movements began their activities in East Europe to get Muslims there to change their religion specially after facing troubles and torture from Communist regimes that obliged them to leave their houses and change their names as in Bulgaria. The Christians are building many churches in Eastern Europe and sending millions of copies of the Bible beside building schools and hospitals to attract children to make them change their religion. He added that the committee began an urgent project to maintain poor Muslim families in East Europe and also began sending financial support to imams of mosque and teachers of the Quran schools.

Chinese clinic suffers shortage

THE Chinese medical clinic has been suffering from a shortage of pharmaceutical supplies for months, particularly the types used with acupuncture, due to suspension of the import of these medical supplies effected by the relevant ministry officials for failing to meet standard specifications.

The situation has not only negatively affected the performance of the clinic but also hampered work progress and usual treatment programmes, due to the unavailability of need medications.

locations and under-laid cables in populated areas, which serve to distribute power among consumers. He told a local daily that each of these two types of networks have individual advantages and disadvantages, as the aerial lines required large areas of land for their routes. He stressed that the

Underground power cables less expensive: Hajri

THE Assistant Undersecretary for electrical networks affairs at the Ministry of Electricity and Water Youssef Al Hajri has said that the main power stations are interlinked and connected with the power plants via electrical networks with varying tension levels, consisting mainly of transmission aerial cables in open

high cost make the ministry replace the aerial lines with underground ones inside populated areas where no adequate spaces could be spared. The choice is also governed by the construction cost of these lines adding that the operational advantages of aerial cables include easy location of sudden

technical failure, which mostly resulted from harsh weather conditions, such as storms, rains and environmental pollutants, which required regular maintenance, the official said.

He added that the location of failures in underground cables is frequently a time-consuming process, along with repairs particularly when the failure happens to hit the high and ultra-high voltage cables, which requires the ministry to install special highly-sophisticated costly equipment to facilitate this task.

He said that the various networks departments at the minis-

Recognition at last...

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

OUR little hearts leapt with joy when Youssef Alayan, the editor-in-chief of the English language daily Kuwait Times, was declared president of the Kuwait Journalists Association.

We now hope that he will purge the association from those who do not belong there and bring us the recognition that other members of the press corps in Kuwait enjoy.

The English language press has been well out on the margins of the association's attention as supposedly an unknown quantity. But Alayan certainly knows his people and should know his competition.

For years we, the non-Arab journalists, have been trying to join the association, writing applications, filling in forms attaching scores of photographs. But there has been some doubt about our credentials.

When some half a dozen of our applications were turned down our Arab colleagues comforted us.

"Believe me, there is nothing to it except the 50 per cent discount on Kuwait Airways. We are all in it only for the discount," a colleague who works mornings as a clerk in the Ministry of Education, assured me.

Oh yes, there were also a few free meals when we recently celebrated the association's 25th anniversary, he recalled.

I remember that one, they invited journalists from abroad to honour the occasion, and we read about it in the newspaper.

Promotions

Another colleague, who was recently promoted from a gatekeeper to a reporter, urged us not to lose hope. Impossible things can happen, he said, and he was speaking from experience.

He himself does not have all the qualifications but what tipped the scales in his favour was all the contacts he made with messengers when they delivered press releases at the newspaper's gate.

By the way the new gatekeeper is planning on becoming a news editor. Failing that he says he would settle for chief sub.

On the other hand another colleague of mine who has a Masters degree in journalism from Boulder, Colorado, is toying with the idea of applying for the post of watchman at a nearby magazine house, as a short cut to the Kuwait Journalists Association.

What really scuppered our prospects for membership in the association was that we could not produce proof of being members in a similar association in our home countries. In my case I never worked in my country which I left straight after university. As for the two other countries I worked in one had never had a press association and the other held the same attitude as the Kuwait Journalists Association. Some of my colleagues came to Kuwait fresh from school and have no other association to apply to.

But we in fact, are not as helpless as it seems although the offers of help came from unexpected quarters — the advertising manager of an Arabic newspaper and a long-standing member of the association. He proposed to use waste and get us in through the back door. There is nothing to worry about, he assured us, he had done it before. Ever since he got the membership card for his farash, he has had his tea brought in promptly and frequently, and the farash visits his family on the banks of the Nile instead of once in two years, twice a year — at half price.

We have put our friend's offer on hold pending the new leadership's programme of action. Besides, he might not be there for too long. After all he did join a wrong association.

From the courts

17-year-old jailed for prostitution

ON complaints filed by neighbours of a 17-year-old girl identified as Nawal, security police kept a surveillance and observed several men continually coming and going from the residence.

A raid of her premises, revealed that she was using the premises for entertaining men and during the raid was said to be having sexual relations with an accused identified as Hameed.

Another accused identified as Ali was also apprehended during the raid.

However, during the course of the raid, the three accused attempted to assault police and flee the scene, but were overpowered.

The court sentenced Hameed to five years imprisonment and Nawal and Ali to two years imprisonment to be followed by deportation.

■ A MAN who used to pose as a detective and stop buses and take away maids with the excuse of investigation has been sentenced by the Court of Misdemeanours to one month's imprisonment.

The court was told that the accused used to follow buses in his private car and after stopping them used to show the passengers a yellow ID claiming he was a detective. On several occasions he took away a maid. On the last occasion, he took a Philippine maid, but a passenger who suspected his motives, took down the number of his car and gave it to the police who later apprehended him.

The Misdemeanours Court in sentencing him to a month's imprisonment also referred him to be tried by the Criminal Court on charges of kidnapping.

■ THE Criminal Court sentenced a man to four years of penal servitude and a fine of KD10, but gave him the option of paying an amount of KD100 to suspend enforcement of the ruling.

The court was told the accused drew a rifle and threatened two

arresting officers who had come to arrest his brother and threatened to shoot if they did not let his brother go. He actually fired twice to show them that he meant what he said, which forced the officers to release his brother. People hearing the shots, investigated and the suspect was overpowered and referred to security authorities.

■ THE Criminal Court has reportedly acquitted five men charged with embezzlement of KD120,000.

The suspects, the director general, his deputy and three of his assistants and two other employees, work at the Farwaniya Co-operative Society. The charge was made upon discovery of the budget deficit during the regular annual inventory.

■ THE traffic court in Hawally has reportedly reduced a one-month jail sentence and KD50 fine against a Kuwaiti lady charged with violating traffic regulations to a fine of KD100 only.

The court issued the sentence in absentia on March 26 against the defendant on charges that included reckless driving, oversteering, refusing to produce the car registration to traffic police patrol and evading arrest.

■ THE Misdemeanours Court has sentenced three male patients who escaped from the Psychiatric Hospital to two months imprisonment each.

The hospital administration informed security forces that three male patients escaped from the hospital by breaking the iron partition of the windows. The first patient was entered into the hospital upon the order of the Criminal Court, the second escapee was transferred to the hospital by Fintas Police Station, the third patient was transferred to the hospital by the Narcotics Prosecution Department.

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MIDEAST



An Afghan rebel fighter firing an anti-aircraft gun from Toora Ghara mountain near the besieged eastern town of Khost while another mujahideen puts fingers into his ears. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kabul plans end to communist monopoly

NICOSIA, April 6. (Agencies): Afghanistan plans to strip the ruling Communist Party of its virtual monopoly on power and pave the way for multi-party democracy, a senior Afghan official said.

Habib Mangal, former ambassador to the Soviet Union, told Reuters in an interview in Cyprus that Kabul hoped the sweeping political changes would help end the Afghan civil war.

Outlining plans similar to changes that have swept eastern Europe, he said the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) planned to dissolve itself and then operate under a new name in the hope of winning wider support.

"It will no longer be a party of workers and peasants, rather an organisation

open to the participation of Afghans of different backgrounds and political affiliation," said Mangal, who is chairman of Afghanistan's House of Representatives.

"We hope to create a new political climate in Afghanistan which will allow for the formation of different political parties. Our aim is political pluralism," he said.

A Loya Jirga, or grand assembly, would convene next month to draw up a new constitution to replace the present Marxist-inspired document.

Muslim mujahideen rebels, who have fought the government since Marxist coup in 1979, have in the past spurned offers by President Najibullah to share

power in a coalition.

Political pluralism would be given prominence and all references to the pro-Soviet PDPA deleted in the new constitution, Mangal said.

He was attending a conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, grouping parliamentarians from around the world, which voted on Monday to accept Afghanistan as a member.

Although the Afghan constitution provides for the formation of political organisations, the PDPA has so far tolerated only parties which have not challenged its leading political role and constitutional privileges.

Mangal said a PDPA congress could meet later this year to choose a new name

and change the party's manifesto.

The PDPA hopes a large number of non-communists would be part of a future coalition government, he said.

Fierce fighting has flared anew in Khost, shell-shocked town with little strategic significance but high symbolic importance in the Afghan conflict.

Normally there is little fighting in Afghanistan during Ramadan.

The mujahideen are firing artillery from key captured military outposts and pummeling the town and adjacent airport occupied by troops loyal to the Kabul government.

The government forces respond with heavy aerial bombardments to try to suppress rebel fire and dislodge the muja-

hedeon from their positions around the mine-laden perimeter.

The Kabul command at one time landed three supply flights a night in Khost. But the airstrip is badly cratered and littered with damaged planes, and supplies are now dropped by parachute.

"We are closing in on the communists. We have taken the war into the city and now we are tightening the circle," said Jalaluddin Haqqani, the most powerful commander in the area.

"On the ground we are in complete control. In the air, the communists can still fight and still deliver supplies," Haqqani said in an interview with a reporter at rebel positions on the town's perimeter.

2 killed, 22 injured in W. Bank, Gaza

Worst clashes

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 6. (Agencies): Israeli soldiers shot dead two Arab youngsters and wounded at least 22 others in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip yesterday in the worst clashes since the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan began last week.

Israeli forces shot dead Nuzar Salah Hassin, 24, from Rafah camp during clashes with stone-throwers close to the Egyptian border in Gaza, military sources said.

Palestinian sources said three other youngsters were injured by live ammunition during the clash that erupted when an army vehicle drove by.

Hospital officials said 16-year-old Mustafa Al-Jaru from Jalazoun refugee camp was shot in the head with a plastic-coated metal bullet during clashes in the centre of Ramallah, north of Jerusalem.

Military sources said troops shot a stone-thrower with rubber bullets. Palestinian residents said soldiers posted on rooftops in Ramallah shot Jaru while he was walking with his brother and sister.

Officials at Ramallah hospital said two-year-old Ishaq Ibrahim Tawil of Tulkarm camp was in serious condition after he was hit in the head by a rubber bullet while playing outside his house. An Israeli army spokesperson confirmed the child was shot and said authorities were investigating the case.

The flare-up came after the 28-month-old uprising against Israeli rule had appeared to be waning, with few clashes and casualties since Ramadan began on March 30, despite calls by nationalist and Islamic leaders

for violent escalation.

In Askar refugee camp, near Nabulus, residents said an Arab truck driver drove his vehicle into soldiers patrolling the camp, injuring one. Soldiers opened fire and wounded six people, including the driver, who said his brakes failed.

Military sources said the soldier was in critical condition. The driver was arrested along with three men who accompanied him in the truck, they added.

A Palestinian demonstrator was wounded in the town of Beit Jala during clashes with school students. In Tulkarm, Israel Radio said troops shot and wounded three stone-throwers after they attacked Israeli vehicles.

In the Gaza Strip town of Khan Younis, soldiers shot and wounded six Palestinian residents who forced open a mosque which soldiers had welded on Wednesday, hospital officials said.

Palestinians said troops closed the great mosque after activists hoisted Palestinian flags on its roof.

Soldiers also shot and wounded three residents during stone-throwing incidents in Gaza city. A Palestinian human rights group said that Israeli tax collection in the West Bank and Gaza Strip was tantamount to pillage.

"What is taking place in the occupied territories amounts to a pillage," Raja Shehadeh, co-director of the West Bank-based Al-Haq legal research group, told a news conference. He said Palestinians, who have been waging a 28-month revolt against Israeli rule, were subject to greater tax than Israelis.

Abu Nidal to release European hostage

BEIRUT, April 6. (AP): Palestinian terrorist mastermind Abu Nidal's faction said that it was making contacts aimed at release of at least one of eight European hostages it holds.

Walid Khaled, Beirut spokesman for Fatah-Revolutionary Council, said the group was acting at the request of Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi.

In a typewritten statement, Khaled said the group was making "immediate contacts with the concerned parties." He did not specify the parties being contacted.

The group has acknowledged holding a French woman, Jacqueline Valente, 32, her two daughters born in captivity, named Liberte and Palestine, and five Belgians. Khaled said Khaddafi called for the release of Ms. Valente "and her family." But he did not say which hostage or hostages would be released.

On Wednesday, Khaddafi called for the release of Ms. Valente as a compassionate measure on the occasion of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan which ends around April 26.

Abu Nidal is backed by Libya and believed to be living in Tripoli, the Libyan capital.

Fatah-Revolutionary Council said Nov 8, 1987, that it had seized the hostages aboard the French yacht Silco off the Gaza Strip.

It claimed they were collaborating with Israel's Mossad secret service. This was denied by their friends, who said they were Roman Catholics on a holiday cruise.

French and Belgian governments, as well as the International Committee of the Red Cross, have been seeking their release.

Pre-emptive strike possible

(Continued from Page 1)

The four-nation Arab Co-operation Council yesterday backed Iraq's right to "legitimate self-defence against aggression" in response to the controversy over Baghdad's threat to use chemical weapons if attacked by Israel.

The foreign ministers of Egypt, Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen spelled out in a communique "the right of Iraq or any Arab state to legitimate self-defence... but did not say whether they endorsed the use of chemical weapons.

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday said his country had binary chemical weapons and threatened to burn half of Israel if it attacked Iraq. His comments were strongly attacked by Israeli and Western leaders.

In Tunis, the Arab League warned Israel yesterday that any attack on Iraq by Israel would be considered an attack on all 22 League members.

At a special meeting in Tunis, the League's council warned Israel or any other party "against any hostile action aimed at Iraq on whatever pretext."

Storage tanks holding fuel worth \$2.5 million burned fiercely on Wednesday for the third day in an area of east Beirut held by General Michel Aoun's army.

They were set ablaze by gunners from the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia. Even if fighting stops, it will take months to restore even water, electricity and telephones because much of east Beirut has been destroyed by artillery and rocket fire.

"We are resorting to survival, we are on the verge of complete collapse and we are contemplating this calmly because we can't do anything," Abu Saleh said.

"We've been fighting for 15 years and have reached this."

Asked how many people had fled the enclave for safer areas in Lebanon or



PLO leader Yasser Arafat shows off a map of Israel during his press conference in Paris following his meeting with former US president Jimmy Carter. (Reuters wirephoto)

Arafat asks Arabs to vote for Peres

Red carpet welcome

ROME, April 6. (Reuters): Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat said yesterday he had asked Arab deputies in the Israeli parliament to vote for Labour Party leader Shimon Peres in his battle to form a government.

Italian officials said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chairman, who is on a two-day visit to Italy, told Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti:

"I have asked Arab deputies present in the Knesset (parliament) to vote for Peres and it will be the first time this happens."

The officials said Arafat made the statement after Andreotti urged him to help form a government for the sake of peace talks.

"You must show Peres all your readiness to continue on the path of dialogue," Andreotti said. Supporting Peres, Andreotti added, was important to allow unprecedented Israeli-Palestinian talks to start as proposed in a US plan.

The officials said Arafat interrupted to reply: "I'm ready."

Arafat said he believed Peres, asked by the president to form a government after a national unity cabinet led by the right-wing Likud collapsed last month, could thwart Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and form a government as early as Sunday.

The outgoing government collapsed because of a dispute between Likud and Peres over a plan put forward by US Secretary of State James Baker.

Peres supports the talks proposal.

Arafat, basking in a red-carpet welcome from Italy's top leaders that has provoked angry protests from Israel and Jewish groups, also met President Francesco Cossiga, Socialist Party leader and former Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, and a host of other political leaders.

Arafat was due to have dinner with Andreotti after their talks. Today he will be received by Pope John Paul for their third meeting.

Israeli ambassador Mordechai Drory earlier this week protested to the foreign Ministry over the high-level welcome accorded to Arafat, by far the warmest of his four visits to Italy and close to that given to heads of state.

An embassy spokesman accused Italy of providing Arafat with a state for propaganda. He said the ambassador had also protested that the PLO leader was being allowed today to visit Assisi, birthplace of St Francis and internationally known as a city of peace.

"This is an attempt to make him a symbol of peace and that is ridiculous," said spokesman Rafael Gamzou.

In Paris, Arafat, sounding optimistic after scoring a diplomatic victory by meeting former US president Jimmy Carter, said Thursday he would like to meet Israeli Prime Minister designate Shimon Peres next in Paris.

Bazoft's 'police contacts' denied

LONDON, April 6. (AP): A government minister said yesterday that Farzad Bazoft, the Iranian-born journalist executed in Iraq, had contacts with the special branch of the British police. But officials said the remark was incorrect and a "slip of the tongue."

The special branch is a police department that deals with political security.

Britain also runs secret services, the M15 counter-intelligence and M16 intelligence-gathering agencies.

Bazoft, 31, who worked for a British newspaper and lived in London, was arrested in Baghdad last year while checking out reports of explosion at a suspected missile

plant. He was charged with spying for Britain and Israel.

He was executed March 15 and Britain in protest withdrew its ambassador.

Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said the so-called confession Bazoft signed after his arrest was "a pathetic document because it clearly tells the truth about a number of rather low-level contacts with special branch officers he had in this country."

"He was, as journalists I believe do, trying to swap information with policemen, mainly about Iranian dissidents and Iranian demonstrations and so forth in London some years ago," Waldegrave added.

I can make it, claims Peres

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 6. (Agencies): Israel's Parliament speaker agreed yesterday to recall the Knesset (Parliament) from recess next week so Labour leader Shimon Peres could present his pro-peace government.

Parliament Speaker Dov Shilansky accepted Peres' request to allow Parliament to vote on a Labour-led government, but he set the day for Wednesday after the Passover holiday.

The delay gives Shilansky's right-wing Likud Party time to try to prevent Peres from achieving a parliamentary majority.

Peres said on Wednesday that he had enough votes to break a 60-60 deadlock in the 120-seat Parliament. But he faced difficulties as Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party tried to sway supporters away from him.

A Likud envoy met rebel former minister Avraham Shari, whose reported defection to Labour could break the tie, to try to lure him back to the right-wing fold.

Unconfirmed reports said Transport Minister Moshe Kat-sav had convinced Shari to talk with Shamir.

Likud parliamentarians also tried to woo the two-main Shinui (chance) centrist faction — which is prone to back Labour — by promising to fulfil its demand for a change in the electoral system to allow the direct election of a prime minister.

The call for direct elections has been growing among the Israeli public frustrated with the frag-

mented 15-party Parliament which gives small religious parties leverage.

Shinui's central committee met until late yesterday but did not decide whether to support Peres.

"We want one promise from Labour — that this will be the last time Israel witnesses the buying and selling of support... in a degrading spectacle," said Amonon Rubinstein of Shinui.

Peres, asked by the president to form a government after the national unity cabinet led by Likud collapsed last month, made a desperate appeal to Shinui to join him in leading Israel into US-sponsored peace talks with Palestinians in Cairo.

"The break was over the peace process, not the electoral system. In my opinion today the supreme priority should be to renew the peace process," he told Shinui's central committee.

Peres said he also favoured electoral reform and accused Likud of a last-ditch ploy which threatened the advance of peace efforts.

"They are trying to blur the peace process. To say yes to the (US Secretary of State James) Baker proposal is not important, suddenly what is important is to change the electoral system," he said.

Peres also met small leftist and Arab parties to secure their backing. His concessions to the ultra-orthodox religious party Agudat Israel in exchange for its support earlier this week led the leftist parties to make their own demands.

Arabs plan new group

LONDON, April 6. (Reuters): A new Arab grouping comprising Sudan, Egypt, Syria and Libya would soon be announced, Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir said in remarks published yesterday.

The London-based newspaper Asharq Al Awsat quoted Bashir as saying the proposed grouping was first thought of when he and the leaders of the three countries — Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, Libya's Muammar Khaddafi and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad — met in Libya last month.

Bashir, whose country entered an integration pact with Libya in March, said Khaddafi's second-in-command, Major Abdel-Salam Jalloud, was drafting documents for the proposed grouping.

Asharq Al Awsat said Bashir, who seized power in a coup last June, made the remarks in a meeting with Sudanese editors in Khartoum. It gave no further details.

Since taking power Bashir has repeatedly spoken of his wish to see Sudan, Libya and Egypt in a regional bloc. His reported remarks in the Arabic newspaper included the first reference to Syria as a possible partner.

Egypt, which has not given any public sign of interest in Bashir's unity plans, joined Iraq, Jordan and North Yemen last year in a grouping called the Arab Co-operation Council.



Palestinian refugees stand among the rubble of their bombed house in Ashdod in south Lebanon. Israeli helicopters raided the camp on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Shells crash on Beirut church

BEIRUT, April 6. (Reuters): Shells hit an east Beirut church and sliced through a congregation praying for peace during one of the fiercest battles for a month between rival Christian leaders.

Security sources said an elderly woman was killed and six other people attending the mass were badly wounded yesterday when shrapnel screamed through Al Beshara Church in the Ashrafieh area.

Hundreds of shells crashed on other residential areas and the Meit Mountains to the north-east as troops of General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) fought with artillery, tanks and rocket batteries.

The fighting erupted a few hours after Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi said he would respond to a call by LF chief Samir Geagea to send his troops into the Christian enclave to end two months of warfare that has killed more than 920 people and wounded 3,000.

Hospital sources said at least 12 people were killed and more than 25 were wounded in yesterday's two-hour battle. It began after Aoun's troops struck two LF trucks loaded with ammunition in the area of Jaita, north of Beirut.

Sources close to Aoun said LF gunners retaliated by firing scores of shells on Aoun's radio and television stations, disrupting their broadcast.

General Aoun is under mounting pressure to surrender to Syrian-backed President Hrawi and end a two-month inter-Christian war.

After the 30-minute meeting with Mitterrand, Carter said the leaders of Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon were equally to blame for delays in the peace process.

Carter, who mediated an Israeli-Egyptian treaty excluding Arafat from the peace process, had originally been scheduled to meet the PLO leader at the same time in the Paris hotel.

In May last year, Mitterrand became the first major Western leader to receive Arafat officially.

Pope John Paul II met with Arafat for the third time in eight years today and urged Israel and Palestinians to negotiate a settlement allowing them both to live in peace.

The Pope reaffirmed that the Palestinians, as well as the Jews, have a right to a homeland.

The two men met for 20 minutes in the Papal library in an audience described by the Vatican as "private."

On Sept 6, Ambassador John McCarthy and his remaining American staff were evacuated from Lebanon after hundreds of angry Christians demonstrated near the embassy's compound in an East Beirut suburb against Washington's policy in Lebanon.

US embassy in Beirut fires 200

BEIRUT, April 6. (AP): The United States embassy has fired 200 of its remaining 350 Lebanese staff, effective next month, the newspaper Ad-Diyar reported.

"It is my unfortunate duty to inform you that the embassy will no longer require your service effective May 5, 1990," said a statement signed by the administrative counselor at the American Embassy in Beirut, Harold T. Burgess.

The photocirculated notice was reproduced by the newspaper. American staff, when conditions permit, to the level that existed prior to Sept 6, 1989," the statement said.

It said the workforce cut was "to reduce the cost of embassy operations."

Lebanon's Christian war damage put at \$1b: nation at the verge of collapse

BEIRUT, April 6. (Reuters): The two-month war in Lebanon's Christian enclave has caused \$1 billion worth of damage, forced 300,000 people to flee and brought the country to the brink of collapse, a top industrialist said.

Fouad Abi Saleh, president of the Industrialists' Association for much of the 16-year civil war, said the losses and political crisis had forced Lebanon to the verge of economic and social breakdown.

"People lost hope during this last fighting. That was the diabolic tragedy. That has made me lose hope," Abi Saleh, 64,

told Reuters after a round of difficult negotiations with officials aimed at restoring electricity to the country.

"I am still working hard — one of the few working hard — but that is to make myself live."

Abi Saleh said no comprehensive survey had been made of destruction since January 31. But he believed direct damage to property and infrastructure stood at \$1 billion.

Storage tanks holding fuel worth \$2.5 million burned fiercely on Wednesday for the third day in an area of east Beirut held by General Michel Aoun's army.

They were set ablaze by gunners from the Christian Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

Even if fighting stops, it will take months to restore even water, electricity and telephones because much of east Beirut has been destroyed by artillery and rocket fire.

"We are resorting to survival, we are on the verge of complete collapse and we are contemplating this calmly because we can't do anything," Abu Saleh said.

"We've been fighting for 15 years and have reached this."

Asked how many people had fled the enclave for safer areas in Lebanon or

abroad since January 31, he said: "Maybe 300,000. Maybe 30 per cent of the population of east Beirut."

Diplomats believe up to 250,000 people have left the country in the past year, many never to return. Lebanon had an estimated population of three million in 1988.

Abi Saleh said the exodus, especially among Christians, was a terrible long-term blow. Many of those leaving were wealthy, qualified or entrepreneurs.

"The way emigration is, I don't know how much we will exist in the future," he said. "What made Lebanon what it was

will be lost and all the hopes based on it."

Abi Saleh said 85 per cent of factories in east Beirut — traditionally Lebanon's industrial centre — has closed because of damage or power shortages.

A ceasefire last September halted six months of artillery duels with Muslim west Beirut. But before east Beirut could recover, it was plunged into the inter-Christian war.

Abi Saleh said the main hurdles for any business were the lack of electricity and telecommunication, with miles of lines destroyed, and a shortage of financing.

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Egypt's economic growth slows

CAIRO, April 6, (Reuters): Egypt, struggling to cope with heavy foreign debt and foreign exchange shortages, said economic growth slowed last year and blamed external factors for the downturn.

Giving the first overall official picture of Egypt's economic performance in 1988/89, the Central Bank said both the budget deficit and trade and balance of payments deficits increased for the year which ended on June 30.

In its latest annual report, obtained by Reuters this week, the bank blamed the poor performance on a decrease in financial aid from international donors and bad farm harvests.

The report said preliminary figures showed a budget deficit of 8.2 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion), 13.8 per cent up on the previous year. Preliminary figures have traditionally greatly underestimated the size of the budget deficit.

And the trade deficit widened to \$7.53 billion from 6.57 billion the year before.

Egypt stopped repayments on much of its foreign debt in July 1988 and has been holding talks since then with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank on a package of economic reforms.

It needs IMF approval before it can reschedule some of its foreign debt, estimated to total \$50 billion.

But with no agreement yet signed, it has been running an increasingly hand-to-mouth existence as foreign creditors demand repayment to outstanding debt before giving fresh aid.

In a report underlining the extent of Egypt's economic problems, the bank said Gross Domestic Product grew by five per cent to 45.4 billion pounds (\$17.13 billion at current rates) in 1988/89, compared to 5.9 per cent the year before.

Diplomats say official figures tend to over-estimate the extent of real GDP growth, and have said there may actually have been little or no growth in 1987/88.

Growth in the agricultural sector — accounting for about 20 per cent of GDP — fell to 2.4 per cent from 3.4 per cent, due to poorer cotton and rice harvests.

Gold falls, dollar mixed

Tokyo stocks rise

TOKYO, April 6, (AP): Prices on the Tokyo stock exchange rebounded sharply today, as the US dollar declined against the Japanese yen.

The Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues closed the week at 29,238.78 points, up 1,029.72 points, or 3.53 per cent.

It was the index's fourth largest single-day advance. Its largest gain was on Oct 21, 1987, after the worldwide Black Monday stock market crash, when it surged 2,037.32 points.

Securities dealers said today's gain followed an improvement in market mood yesterday afternoon when major institutional investors began actively buying shares to support the falling market. The move helped the Nikkei index wipe out most of a 1,088.94-point morning loss to close the day yesterday down only 193.88 points.

"The market has entered on a rebounding phase as domestic demand-related issues and large-capital stocks, including steel issues, were bought briskly," said Masaya Hashizume, an analyst with Nikko Securities.

"The relatively large trading volume of 800 million shares signals the beginning of a market tour around," he said.

Yesterday, 650 million shares changed hands on the market's first session, following weeks of sessions in which typical trading volume was less than 500 million shares.

Other dealers said many participants, including institutional investors, believed the index has reached its bottom.

In currency dealings, the US dollar closed the week at 157.47 yen, down 0.43 yen from yesterday's close. After opening at 156.90 yen, it ranged between 156.55 yen and 157.65 yen.

Many market players were reducing long, or overbought, dollar positions against the yen prior to a weekend meeting of finance ministers from the group of seven industrialised nations in Paris, said Takeo Suzuki, a dealer with Yasuda Trust and Banking Co.

Suzuki said the yen "now is under less selling pressure against European currencies, including the West German mark, because their value (against the yen) have risen enough."

Other exchange dealers said they expect some policy initiatives to defend the yen against the dollar in Saturday's meeting of monetary authorities from the United States, Japan, West Germany, Britain, France, Italy and Canada.

Yasuda's Suzuki said the yen's relative stability also was partly due to "progress to some extent" in yesterday's agreement in trade talks between the United States and Japan in which both pledged to make structural reforms in their economies.

The preliminary agreement in the so-called Structural Impediments Initiative, reached after several months of discussions between US and Japanese negotiators, is intended to remove structural causes of their \$44 billion trade imbalance.

In the bond market, the price of benchmark No. 119 Japanese government bonds closed at 86.38 points, down from Thursday's finish of 86.55. Their yield was 7.275 per cent, up from the previous day's 7.240 per cent.

Wall Street stocks ended slightly higher yesterday after rolling back a moderate mudday gain as concerns about the US economy and first-quarter corporate profits mounted.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended up 1.80 points at 2,721.17, with losers slightly outpacing gains 727-715 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Many investors held their positions ahead of March employment figures due today. Volume was a mild 144.2 million shares on the big board, compared with 159.5 million shares on Wednesday.

Traders had feared the Tokyo market would fall sharply overnight after rumours swept Wall Street on Wednesday that a Japanese brokerage firm might be in trouble.

But the rumours were not substantiated.

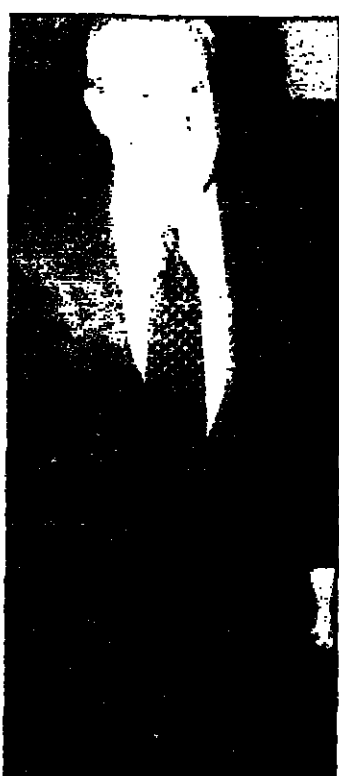
Shares higher
Share prices finished slightly higher after a lacklustre session on London's Stock Exchange yesterday.

Investors were content to sit on the sidelines, waiting for a new trading account to begin today afternoon, traders said. The exchange divides trading into two-week and three-week periods for accounting purposes.

Traders said investors still were considering the ramifications of Tokyo's gyrations.

Dollar mixed
The US dollar finished mixed Thursday in dull trading on world currency markets.

Gold prices fell in the United States after rising overseas. On the commodity exchange in New York, gold bullion for current delivery settled at \$374.80 a troy ounce, down \$2.30 from late Wednesday.



Boesky released

Convicted stock market swindler Ivan Boesky (shown above) barred for life from the securities industry, is reportedly planning to start a new investment venture following his release from prison today.

Boesky, 53, once the living symbol of the sick Wall Street player, was reported to have spent some of his prison time to raise money for his new venture.

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Airline pilots focus on security issue

Kuwait to table proposals as conference opens

WASHINGTON, April 6, (Kuna): US Secretary of Transportation, Samuel Skinner yesterday opened the 45th annual conference of International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations (Ifapa), with representatives from Kuwait and three Arab countries attending.

Approximately 300 delegates, from 70 member associations representing some 65,000 airline pilots members around the world are attending.

The security situation related to airline travel will be the subject of intensive discussion, as usual, at this year's annual meeting, according to Ifapa officials.

A number of studies will be debated related to security including some that will be presented by the Kuwaiti delegation led by Ahmed Shemlan and Anwar Yaqout. Kuwait is one of four Arab countries only that are members of Ifapa. The others are Lebanon, Egypt, and Sudan.

In addition to Skinner, the opening session was addressed by L.H. Baker, president of the Ifapa and by Henry Duffy, president of the US Airline Pilots' Association.

This year's conference is debating a wide variety of technical and security-related issues. Among these issues, for example, the delegates are reviewing the feasibility of installing special pressure sensing devices linked to the pilots' instruments to determine whether an inflight structural failure has been caused by sabotage or mechanical failure.

Ifapa officials told Kuna that one of the issues on security that will be discussed deals with the security implications arising from external access to aircraft cargo holds, service doors, equipment bays, and wheel wells, particularly during nightstops at airports with poor perimeter fencing.

The federation is now working on a policy urging aircraft manufacturers to incorporate suitable monitoring devices into existing and future airliner designs.

Bearing in mind that hijacking situations might occur where the escape of the flight crew could be beneficial for both the passengers and the remaining crew members, it will be proposed that the pilot-in-command, depending on the circumstances of the particular incident, should be able to exercise his discretions with regard to the undertaking of such action.

In order to prevent terrorists from predicting the level of counter measures at a particular airport at any one time, the federation will be promoting the principle of raising standards of airport security at frequent, but random intervals, Ifapa officials told Kuna.

There will also be a proposal during the five-day annual meeting aimed at encouraging states to establish what is called an aviation security reporting system, analogous to the existing reporting systems in the field of air safety, enabling pilots and other civil aviation staff to report security deficiencies.

Recent sabotage incidents, such as the destruction of Korean Airlines flight 858 in November 1987, where the perpetrators disembarked the aircraft enroute leaving the explosive device in the cabin, have encouraged the federation to develop policies aimed at achieving complete passenger-baggage reconciliation, officials said.

This year's conference will also be requested to adopt a policy proposal urging states to ensure the full and rapid implementation of those security measures recommended by Icao at all commercial airports, both domestic and international.

EXCHANGE RATES

Indian rupee	17.170
Sri Lankan rupee	7.430
Pakistani rupee	13.750
Bangladesh taka	8.630
US dollar	28.640
Pound sterling	48.550
UAE dirham	0.9013
Deutsche mark	1.7350
Japanese yen	0.01872

Chrysler jeep sales resume

NEW YORK, April 6, (Kuna): The Chrysler Corporation said it will resume sales of its jeep vehicles in Saudi Arabia for the first time in 25 years.

The Number 3 American auto maker said the move is coming because Arab nations last year removed jeeps from the list of products they are boycotting.

Chrysler also said it hopes to increase sales of all its products in the Arab market.

The first step was naming United Arab Motors Co as the distributor for jeep and Dodge vehicles in Saudi Arabia. The distribution concern, owned by Aggad Investment Co, will construct three Saudi dealerships in Riyadh, Dammam and Jeddah.

Chrysler said Saudi Arabia and the neighbouring Gulf countries represented a "tremendous market opportunity" for Chrysler products.

Policy blamed for UK inflation

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): The Governor of the Bank of England said policy mistakes and forecasting errors were to blame for Britain's high inflation rate, the Press Association reported today.

"It is clear from the rise in inflation over the past two or three years that something has gone quite badly wrong, and I should not deny that policy mistakes and forecasting errors played a part," said Robin Leigh-Pemberton.

Interest rates were reduced when they should not have been and there was no alternative to tighter monetary policy, he told a meeting organised by the local chamber of commerce at Durham castle in northern England.

But the Press Association said Leigh-Pemberton believed Britain's current counter-inflationary policies "are the right ones."

It quoted him as saying credit controls were "ultimately ineffective" and entry into Europe's exchange rate mechanism "was no soft option."

With annual inflation hitting 7.5 per cent and economists predicting it will rise above nine per cent by the summer, the popularity of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has slumped to an all-time low.

A Gallup poll that appeared in the Daily Telegraph newspaper today said that out of 10,000 people interviewed, only 24 per cent said they were satisfied with Thatcher's performance.

The figure would make her the least popular British Prime Minister since opinion polls began more than half a century ago.

Britain's annual inflation last year was the highest in the group of seven leading industrial countries.

The Automatic Loan from the Auto Bank Plus

Three distinctive services in one card.

The New Auto Bank Plus Card is exclusive to Commercial Bank. If you are a Current Account holder, this card will allow you the many Auto Bank conveniences plus much more...

LOANS

The new Auto Bank Plus Card provides you with an automatic loan from any Auto bank in Kuwait.

You may now cash an advance against your salary, with limits renewed automatically every month, and debits passed to your account.

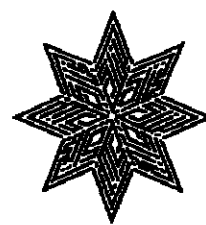
VISA

An added dimension to the new Auto Bank Plus Card is that it is also a Visa Card. Being a Visa Card holder means joining millions of people in the world over who use Visa Card to pay for goods and services at millions of outlets, also you may draw cash from the ATMs of selected banks in many countries of the world, in the currencies of those countries, and your account will be automatically debited in Kuwaiti Dinars.

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The gearing inherent in warrants will increase the risk and potential reward to investors in the Fund, we therefore recommend that investors do not expose more than 1-2% of their total portfolio to the European Warrant Fund.

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It should be noted that past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of shares can fall as well as rise. Investors may not get back the amount originally invested.

The Fund has an initial charge of 6% and annual charges of 2.675%.

The Fund is an open-ended investment company (SICAV), based in Luxembourg and its shares are listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

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BUSINESS

Trade pact with US boosts Tokyo stock

Japan pledges to implement measures reducing barriers

WASHINGTON, April 6, (Reuters): The Bush administration hailed a new agreement to open the Japanese market to US goods, but it was unclear by how much or how quickly it would help slash America's huge \$50 billion trade deficit with Japan.

US negotiators last night announced a series of measures which Japan pledged to implement to reduce barriers — in the form of government policies and business practices that keep US and other foreign goods out of Japanese shops.

In Tokyo, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said today the promised structural

reforms to Japan's economy might hurt at first but would ultimately benefit his people. He also defended his government against charges it might have conceded too much to Washington.

Japan agreed to reform its distribution system to spur the sale of foreign goods, end collusive practices by big industries which worked to keep foreign firms out of Japan and to strengthen and better enforce its anti-monopoly laws. The United States, in turn, pledged to work harder to cut its budget deficit, increase its savings rate and improve worker training in order to make more goods that attract sales abroad.

1989: Bad year for insurers

ZURICH, April 6, (Reuters): Natural and man-made disasters conspired to make 1989 a "year of catastrophes" for insurers, forcing them to pay record claims, according to a study published yesterday.

Major disasters killed some 15,000 people, much lower than the 50,000 in 1988, but caused at least \$13.75 billion worth of damage to insured property last year, the survey by the Swiss Reinsurance Company said.

"The year 1989 will without doubt go down in history as the year of catastrophes," it said.

The trend toward both natural and man-made disasters is on the rise, the company said. \$1 billion

disasters could be expected every three to five years in the 1970s and early 1980s, but are now more frequent.

Four disasters alone — hurricane Hugo, the explosion at a Texas petrochemical plant, the California earthquake and the "Exxon Valdez" oil spill — accounted for more than half of the 1989 damages claims.

The study recorded 292 "disasters" that killed at least 20 people or caused property damage worth \$16.2 million last year, only 10 more than in 1988. But the amount of damage they caused more than doubled.

The interim report followed a round of discussions dubbed the Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks which began last summer to try to reduce the stubbornly huge US trade deficit with Japan.

The size of the deficit has stirred a protectionist sentiment in Congress which has worried the administration.

News of the agreement helped give the recently ailing Japanese yen and Tokyo stock market a much-needed boost.

The dollar traded in Europe this morning about half a yen below its London close yesterday of 157.75 yen. In Tokyo the benchmark Nikkei average soared 1,029.72 points to close at 29,278.78, a gain of 3.65 per cent.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said: "The SII interim report is an important way station along the road leading to a strengthened US-Japan relationship."

Japanese Vice-Finance Minister Makoto Usui told reporters: "I have seen great progress in the talks and I hope that the American people will have a better image of Japan as a result."

Richard McCormack, an assistant secretary of state, said at a news conference: "They (the Japanese) have proved their commitment to begin to address remaining impediments that constrain trade and free competition."

But US officials and some congressional leaders said that before they could pronounce the interim report a success they would have to see a fall in the trade deficit with Japan.

Officials said a way to monitor the pact had not yet been agreed upon, but one method would be to measure the price Japanese now pay for an item and if it fell against the price for the item in America the pact could be called a success.

Surveys show some Japanese-made products cost 40 per cent less in New York than in Japan. In fact, the United States has argued is due to anti-competitive practices in Japanese society.

Michael Ferran, under-secretary of commerce for international trade, told reporters Japan had agreed that prices would serve as a barometer of success.

US officials said that a fall in the deficit would be a measurement of the success of the talks, but rejected the idea that any timetable should be set for the deficit reductions.

Some officials worried that results of the talks could take as long as five years to show up in trade statistics.

Senator Lloyd Bentsen, chairman of the finance committee, which writes trade legislation, said Japan had agreed to many trade reform moves in the past which had not produced results.

The Texas Democrat said after a briefing on the pact: "I'm much less interested in what this agreement pledges than what it provides in the way of increased world trade."

Kaifu said it had been his political goal to improve the quality of life of his fellow citizens, benefit consumers and bring the Japanese economy into better harmony with the world.

"Promotion of structural reform of Japan's economy will make a major contribution to the achievement of the goals, and therefore, will be in our national interest," Kaifu said.

Asked whether Japan had been too accommodating to US demands, Kaifu said: "There will be such views, and then there will be views that we were too stubborn. There are a range of opinions."

"As this was not a negotiation, there will not be a 'compromise', but the important thing was that we reach some common ground that both sides can agree to, and I think this was achieved."

A 28-page report released after the Washington talks outlined plans on how each side plans to remove its so-called structural barriers to trade. A final, more detailed report will be issued in July.

Asked if any changes will be made in July, Kaifu said he expected to see further progress. "For example, there will be more details about public investment..."

One of the biggest domestic issues was the US demand for the abolition of Tokyo's curbs on large retail stores, which have long protected smaller shopkeepers.

Japan agreed to amend the large-scale retail store law during the next regular parliamentary session later this year, which will mean Kaifu must negotiate passage of a bill through the opposition-controlled Upper House.



Kaifu holds up a report on the Washington trade talks. (Reuters wirephoto)

'US bank bill could frighten investors'

WASHINGTON, April 6, (Reuters): The Bush administration warned yesterday that proposed legislation aimed at winning US banks and securities companies more business in Japan could end up disrupting world financial markets.

US Treasury Undersecretary David Mulford said Washington would risk retaliation from abroad if it used the powers available in the bill to open up overseas financial markets to US competition.

This retaliation could frighten investors world-wide into believing that a financial trade war was about to break out and thus disrupt the free flow of capital to global stock and bond markets.

"The impact would be devastating to world financial markets," Mulford told the Senate banking committee.

The bill would give the Treasury the power to stop foreign financial services companies from expanding in the United States if their home markets were not open to their US rivals.

It is co-sponsored by the committee's powerful Democratic chairman, Donald Riegle, and its ranking Republican member, Jake Garn.

The lawmakers, fearful that US banks and securities companies will lose out to Japan just as many American manufacturers already have, angrily attacked the administration for failing to back their efforts.

"How naive can we be?" Garn asked. "Our markets are being gutted... but we're afraid of retaliation."

Japanese banks have used their country's excess savings to win a bigger share of the US and other financial markets outside of Tokyo.

Mulford defended the Treasury's six-year drive to liberalise and open up Japan's financial markets, but added that much work remains to be done.

"They (the Japanese) have got a very, very long way to go," he said.

Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan said Wednesday that Congress can boost the international competitiveness of US banks by repealing the Glass-Steagall Act, which keeps banks from doing securities work.

Greenspan, in remarks before a subcommittee of the house banking committee, also said competitiveness could be enhanced by lowering the cost of capital to US banks.

The Glass-Steagall Act, which prohibits commercial banks from engaging in securities activities, has been "particularly burdensome," Greenspan said.

Feat of precision

'IBM' with 35 atoms

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Scientists have arranged 35 atoms in a feat of precision that may one day lead to far faster computers.

It took 22 hours of moving atoms one by one to create the letters "IBM," researcher Donald Eigler said.

The design, about 660 billionths of an inch (2.54 cms) long, is featured in a report by Eigler and Erhard Schweizer, who did the work at IBM's Almaden Research Centre in San Jose, California. The report is in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature.

"The implications are really remarkable," said Stuart Lindsay, an Arizona State University physicist.

Someday, that ability may let researchers build tiny electronic components, allowing computers far faster than today's supercomputers, scientists said. Atoms may also be assembled into molecules to create new substances and materials.

The IBM scientists arranged atoms of a heavy gas called xenon on a surface made of nickel in a process "in tugging ping pong balls over the bumpy bottom of an egg carton. The scientists used a device called a scanning tunneling microscope, which produces extremely detailed images of surfaces. It can sense atoms on a surface by passing the tip of a needle over it.

The tip holds a magnet-like attraction for atoms. When the tip was brought close enough to a xenon atom, it could pull the atom across the surface.

The needle had to tug hard enough to haul a xenon atom over bumpy nickel atoms on the surface, but gently enough not to lift it off the surface, Eigler said.

The amount of pull was adjusted by changing the needle tip's height. Typically, the tip hovered about 10 billionths of an inch above a xenon atom.

The work was done at temperatures to keep the xenon atoms from wandering, and in an extremely high vacuum to keep unwanted molecules from contaminating the surface.

Foreign lenders to loan Jordan \$369m

Amman-IMF accord

AMMAN, April 6, (AP): Jordan and the International Monetary Fund have reached agreement paving the way for loans totalling \$369 million to the cash-strapped kingdom, the Central Bank of Jordan announced yesterday.

A Central Bank statement, carried by the official news agency, Petra, said Jordan could receive half of an IMF standby credit totalling \$44 million before the end of June.

The agreement also includes a \$150 million World Bank loan, a \$150 million loan from the Japanese government, and \$25 million from the West German government.

According to the statement, the agreement was the result of five days of talks between the Finance Ministry and an IMF delegation.

The remaining \$22 million in the IMF standby credit will be released subject to Jordan convincing the fund that the kingdom was meeting targets set in an

economic restructuring programme agreed on in 1989, the first year of an austerity programme.

The programme was designed to address a chronic foreign exchange shortage and budget deficits foreseen in the next five years.

Jordan, straining under a foreign debt burden of \$8.3 billion, approached foreign lenders for new credits in November 1988. It also pursued negotiations with creditors to reschedule its 1989 and 1990 repayments.

The kingdom reached rescheduling agreements with major creditors for the two years.

Jordan-IMF negotiation would enable the country to reschedule foreign debt principal repayments, due in 1991, estimated at \$640 million.

It added the Amman government was also seeking to reschedule interest on foreign loans during the same year estimated at \$450 million.

Reuter

Exchange service launched

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): The international news and information organisation, launched a new service called Money 2000 for the 24-hour global markets in foreign exchange and money on Wednesday.

It is the first major information service which the company has introduced for these markets since the birth in 1973 of Reuter monitor.

A statement said Money 2000 brought together on a single screen rates contributed by banks and brokers in 82 countries together with quotations for all leading instruments in the major financial, futures and options markets.

Reuter product group leader Buford Smith said: "Money 2000 is a key part of our continuing strategy to provide our customers around the world with the fastest, most flexible and most comprehensive range of services so that they can make better decisions faster."

Iranian missions look for \$27b aid

NICOSIA, Cyprus, April 6, (AP): A senior Iranian official said yesterday that lists of projects for which foreign investment were needed have been sent to Iranian missions world-wide.

Morteza Alviri, head of the parliament's plan and budget commission, said that any country with which Iran had diplomatic relations could invest in Iran.

But he said priority would be given to companies which offered technology, transferable technology and infrastructure use of Iranian resources.

Alviri is in Nicosia for a meeting of the International Parliament Union.

Alviri admitted that in the parliamentary debates on the five-year plan, which was approved in January, about 80 of the 270 representatives had opposed the government's plan to seek foreign investment.

He said that in the Iranian leadership demand for a free market economy and oppose foreign investment because they say that it will plunge Iran into an endless cycle of debt.

He said foreign investments would be paid back by income generated from projects, and that the investment would be made.

Alviri said Iranian factories were working at 30 per cent capacity, and that boosting production was one of the government's major concerns.

He said another major task was to designate a realistic exchange rate for the rial, which is kept artificially inflated at 70 rials to the dollar.

That rate is artificial because on a free market basis the rial trades at 1500 to the dollar, he said. A rate of between 700 and 800 is being sought.

Alviri said the situation is probably devaluation but "the time we will do this has not been finalized."

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani has said his country will seek \$27 billion in foreign investments in the framework of a five-year plan to resuscitate the ailing economy.

His government has said it will allow joint enterprises in Iranian companies where the foreign share does not exceed 49 per cent.

An Iranian magazine yesterday called for a bigger share in the economy for the private sector. The Islamic republic news agency reported.

The agency, monitored in Nicosia, quoted "Iran exports" as saying in its latest issue that government plans to let the private sector control 60 per cent of the economy were not enough.

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CANADA ?

CANICOM / INTERNATIONAL ENTREPRENEURS is organizing an exploratory tour, for businessmen and investors, who are interested in business and investment opportunities in Canada. The tour will commence on May 14th, 1990, and last for a period of two weeks. Points of interest will include Montreal, Toronto and Halifax.

For more information or an appointment, Please contact Mr. Omar Baddarat 2408401 or 2408402

McDonald's blasts 'heart savers' for 'poisoning' advertisement

CHICAGO, April 6, (UPI): Fast food giant McDonald's said it may eliminate beef tallow from its recipe for French fries, but condemned a nation-wide newspaper advertisement claiming the chain is "poisoning" consumers.

"Let's start with the obvious: This ad is reckless, misleading and intended to scare rather than inform," McDonald's Corp senior vice-president Dick Starmann said. The ad, which appeared Wednesday in the Wall Street Journal and more than a

dozen other newspapers, was headlined: "The poisoning of America" and carried the label "Part III."

The advertisement was placed by an Omaha, Neb., man — Phil Sokolof — identified in the ad as president of the "National Heart Savers Association."

In ads labelled "Parts I and II" last year, Sokolof's organisation campaigned against the use of lard and tropical oils — specifically palm and coconut — in processed foods.

"McDonald's represents the food industry," Sokolof, founder of and sole contributor to the association, said in a telephone interview. "McDonald's is the leader and, consequently, when you say McDonald's, you are including Burger King and Wendy's."

Starmann took issue with the ad's charge that McDonald's hamburgers have a high fat content.

"Our hamburgers, which are the focus of the ad, are leaner and have less fat than

the ground beef most people buy in supermarkets," Starmann said. "In fact, our ground beef qualified for the (agriculture department) standard for 'lean beef'."

"Obviously, there are fatter hamburger meats in grocery stores," Sokolof conceded. "The qualifications for what constitutes lean meat vary from state to state."

The fat content of McDonald's hamburgers is about the average for hamburgers sold by major chains, he said.



Al Abeer turns three

AL ABEER Nursery School, Abbasiyah, recently celebrated its third anniversary. The young students held a special programme for the occasion. Varghese Gee, the Indian embassy's First Secretary, was the guest of honour. Merina George welcomed the gathering.

The Indian School's (Abbasiyah Branch) Principal T.K. Viswanath spoke on the importance of pre-primary education. Mrs Varghese Gee distributed the prizes and Elizabeth Thomas Jacob presented the annual report. Finally Mrs Daniel extended vote of thanks.

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

- 1.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 1.15 The World Today via Satellite (repetition)
- 1.30 Cultural programme: Animals of the world.
- 2.00 Cartoon
- 2.30 Historical serial: Maal Sabireen (part 12)
- 3.35 Local health programme
- 3.50 Arabic daily serial: Qabada Bahloul (part 12)
- 4.35 Local religious programme
- 4.45 Arabic daily serial: Raafat Al Hajjan (part 12)
- 5.30 Religious programme
- 6.15 Cartoons
- 6.45 Baadal Ifar: Religious feature
- 7.00 Local children serial
- 8.00 Religious programme: Nourul Islam
- 8.45 Cultural programme: Juhaina
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi

- 10.00 News in Arabic
- 10.45 Local serial: Family (part 12)
- 11.30 Local variety programme: 3x3 (part 12)
- 12.15 Arabic serial: Share Al Mawardi (part 12)
- 1.15 Arabic drama
- 3.00 News in brief
- 3.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 3.15 Holy Quran and closedown

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.10 Brave Star. A cartoon series for children
- 8.30 Survival
- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan.
- 9.45 Face to Face. An interview with His Excellency Sheikh Saud Al Sabah.
- 10.15 Final Run
- 11.00 Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom
- 11.30 Feature film
- 1.30 News in Brief
- 1.45 Magazine D'Actualite

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Cold Steel
Al Sahmiah
Good Morning Vietnam
Arabic film
Drive-In
Raiders of Paradise
Al Firdous
Kaun Jetta Kaun Hara
Fahadeh Open
Subh-o-Sham

Fahadeh
Naadu Vazhikal
Al Jahra
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Granada
Night Wars
Sufiabad
Arabic film
Jeh
Chitram
Ahmadi Drive-In
Blue Iguna



Independence Day observed

The Shetadai Cultural Group organised an extensive outdoor programme to mark the 19th anniversary of the Independence Day of Bangladesh.

They gathered at Augilla Family Beach and had their day-long business in having a picnic, sports-competition for children and adults, discussion on Independence Day, distribution of prizes to the winners in the competitions, recitation of poems and songs of patriotism.

The sports were conducted by sports secretary Ismail Bhuyan who was assisted by Safaruzzaman Lal. Sekundor Hossain, Lokman Hossain and Kholnour Begum.

The discussion session was presided by Khondker Abdul Hannan, president of Shetadai and was addressed by M.A. Samad, member of the advisory council and Jamal Haider, the general secretary. The speakers commemorated the leadership and sacrifice of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in establishing free, independent and sovereign Bangladesh. They expressed their deep concern at the deplorable economic condition of their homeland.

The discussion was followed by recitation of poems by poet Nasreen Chowdhury and Shetadai member — Babul Akhtar Noor.

The winners in the sports-competition were awarded prizes by the special guest M.A. Samad. The entire programme was conducted by Jamal Haider, the General Secretary of Shetadai.

PRAYERS

Kuwait City
Al Sharqiya Pharmacy
Al Hilali Street
Al Dharban Pharmacy
Arab Gulf Street
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Qattan Pharmacy
Al Othman Street

Amman Street
Fahadeh & Ahmadi
Burgan Pharmacy
Al Sabah Market
Jeeb Shuyookh
Palestine Pharmacy
Main Street
Jahra
Al Khaled Pharmacy
Opposite of Co-operative
Society

PRAYERS

Insaq	4.00 am
Fajr	4.10
Zohr	11.50
Asr	3.25 pm
Maghreb	6.10
Isha	7.28

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

Sultan Gallery
Furniture of Kuwait, pre-1940s furniture, is currently on show at the Sultan Gallery; daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

From April 16, 1990, "The Mosques of Isfahan" exhibition will be shown at the gallery; it will be open daily from 10 am to 12 noon and 8 to 10 pm.

SOCIAL

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral — Kuwait

Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April — 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam) — in big hall.

Maundy Thursday: 12th April — 7.00 am. Concelebrated Mass of Christ (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English): 9.00 pm. Adoration (English) — in the big hall.

Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence) — 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam): 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Konkani): 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English): 4.00 pm.

Holy Saturday: 14th April — 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English): 8.00 pm.

Easter Sunday: 15th April — 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in big hall): 12.00 noon. Holy Mass (English): 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Konkani): 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in big hall).

Guardian Angel Club
The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC. Goan Charlie Chaplin — Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Canadian Women's League
An invitation is extended to all Canadian women to attend this month's meeting which will be held on Saturday April 7 from 4 to 6 pm in Qurtoba. For more information contact 2563025 or 2653067.

Hyderabad

The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECCEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah — the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).

The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.

A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.

All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Summer Affair '90
THE Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 4315425 (Julio), 5741380 or 4890566.

Saligaocars
CALLING all Saligaocars... to respond to the call for a social gathering on May 25 at Ramada Al Salam at 11.30 am. For details contact the following: Justin Fernandes on Tel. No. 2406936 (Res), Aloco Carvalho, 2411442 Res. 246131, Americo Remedios, Res. 3983348 and Paulo Cruz, Res. 2444729. Tony Cordeiro off. 2415401. Res. 2412337.

Approb Eid Milan Party
Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen is organising its traditional Eid Milan Party at the SAS Hotel Ballroom, on the second of Eid Al Fitr.

The Gala Party programme will include dinner, music, songs, comedy and a colourful display of Pakistani national costumes.

There will be special entertainment and games for children under the age of ten. A lucky draw with attractive prizes and American auction will also be held for the benefit of needy students of Pakistani schools in Kuwait.

For further details and reservations please contact 5317390, 5386201, 5316273, 2425315, 5631815, 5613934, 2522647.

Ladies International League
LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Ali inquiries contact Cecilia on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Approb essay competition

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding an essay competition on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Pakistan Resolution.

Pakistani students in the age group of between 12-14 (juniors) and 15-18 (seniors) are invited to write their essays on the topic "My role in building a better Pakistan." The essays between 1000 and 1500 words, in Urdu or English, should be sent by 15th of April.

Four prizes of KD100 each (2 each for Urdu and English) will be awarded to the best articles in each group with other consolation prizes for deserving participants.

The panel of judges is headed by Dr M.I. Saleem, Dr Ali Jaffrey and Abdus Sattar Ghazali. For further details, contact: Tel. Approb, 2425315. Fax. 5323751.

Passion Week

The English Language congregation of National Evangelical Church will hold the following worship services.

8th April — Palm Sunday — Worship from 6 pm to 7.30 pm.

11th April — Wednesday — The choir will present Easter Cantata from 5.30 pm to 7.00 pm.

12th April — Maundy Thursday — Communion worship service from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

13th April — Good Friday Service from 11.45 am to 3.00 pm.

15th April — Easter Sunrise Service from 4.30 am to 6.00 am.

Easter Sunday worship service from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm.

During which choir will present "Easter Cantata". All are welcome.

Tourist Restaurant
KNOWN for Indian Pakistani tandoori/curry dishes with seven types of bread. Ramadan timings take away service 5 pm onward regular dine 6 pm to 1 pm. For further information contact Tel. 2411702.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre are presenting a St. George's Day Revue on Thursday 19 April in the Unity Centre, Ahmadi, beginning at 7.30 pm (Please note the change of date to that previously advertised). Acts include Phil Thomas, June Woolston, The Kuwait Folk Group, and the Kuwait Singers. Tickets and tables can be booked by telephoning 3919759.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied辣 bangles and designful henna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant.

Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Sindhu Devi
PADMASREE Dr. K.J. Yesudas and leading famous play back singer Miss Sindhu Devi is coming to Kuwait to perform two days musical concert on April 24th and 25th 1990 in Granada Theatre, Kheitan.

British Council

The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadan: General office — Saturday to Wednesday — 7.30 to 14.00; Library — Saturday to Wednesday — 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

Kuwait Plaza
SPECIAL Ramadan Activities: Al Dallah coffee shop features authentic iftar with sumptuous dishes, mezza, sweet, Ramadan drinks and a special buffet.

NOURA TERRACE
Surrounded by man-made waterfalls and green sceneries offers all kinds of light meals, juices, Ramadan drinks, hubbly-bubble and trick trail in an open air atmosphere. open from 8 pm until 2 am.

LOLOWAH CORNER
Invites you to spend an evening out with your family. Enjoy all kinds of Kuwaiti and Arabic sweets with variety of delicious beverage and live entertainment. Open from sunset until 2 am.

Anglican services
PAUL'S Church, Ahmadi Anglican services, 8 pm, The Last Supper.

Good Friday, 2 pm, The Cross of Christ, 7 pm United Service Easter Day, 8.30 am. Holy Communion: 11.30 am. Lunchtime family service: 12.30 pm. Lunchtime communion: 6.30 pm. Easter festival, with the Ahmadi Music Group: 7.30 - 8 pm. Holy Communion. For further particulars ring 3985924.

Rose Ferns' drama
MAY 10-11. Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xixxe" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

PAC's Silver Jubilee
THE organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.

Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Kuwait Players
The Kuwait Players will be performing "On Pink Paper In Black and White" on Wednesday and Thursday April 18 and 19 respectively. The play comprises of 3 one act plays and starts at 8.00 pm at the Universal American School. For tickets and more information contact 5629875 or 5640981.

Daniella Show Trip
Daniella invites all Danes to go on a show trip on Friday, May 4. For registration please call Jytte on Tel: 2449610 before April 22.

Konkani non-stop show

A Konkani non-stop show entitled Koxit Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Utorda, organised by Utorda Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawalli.

For more information contact 4817857.

Narmada's Malayalam play
NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra - From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, "Fuzairies" on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.

HOTELS
Mughal Mahal

FIRST Indian restaurant to introduce Mughlai cuisine in Kuwait. Enjoy our specialties such as: Khandari Tikka Mal, Mali Kebab, Navratan Briyani and lots more. Ramadan timings. Carry away pick ups from 5 pm onwards. Dine in from 6 pm to 2 am. Tel. 2425131/2.

Ramadan at Messiah Beach Hotel
AL MUBARAKIAH: Daily Ramadan Iftar Buffet, with a selection of fresh dishes, Kuwaiti and Middle Eastern specialties.

Ghabga & Sohaur: Enjoy the daily fresh desserts and juices with the delightful sohoor buffet accompanied by soft Middle Eastern background music on the oud.

Holiday Inn
Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free per family, the rest half price. SUHOOR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

LA PERCOLA: The beach side open air restaurant offers light meals and snacks from sunset to midnight.

The Meridian
DURING the holy month of Ramadan

LA BRASSERIE: Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, majboos, safiha, buabaki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like basbousah, maamoul bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.

AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am.

A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.

AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus such special refreshments as irge sous, tamer hindy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING:
For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort.

As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghabghab will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

Sheraton Hotel
HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo — Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Sohoor from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Margalita Wejiss plays in the lobby diwanija after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Yoga lessons
FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupuncture, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics ongoing for all levels or play including junior, ladies' and adult sessions with Frank Novak, an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Look good, feel great! Ladies' sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9 am to 9 pm. Austrian instructor for swimming lessons. Courses start first week of every month on Sundays and Tuesdays, or Mondays and Wednesdays. For details please call: 2530000/8050 (recreation)

Apollo Fitness Centre
ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch — Sun and Wed 10.30 — 11.30 am; Apollo Workout — Sunday — 5.30 — 6.30 pm, Tuesday — 5.00 — 6 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) — Friday 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness — 4.00 — 5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) — 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop — 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts — Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo — Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga — enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Hyderabad Sports Day

The committee for sports for celebration of 400-year anniversary of Hyderabad (Deccan) is organising a sports day on 27th April 1990 (or next day of Idd) at Juleeb Al Shuwik ground (behind Juleeb Al Shuwik cinema). The schedule of programme is as follows: 9 to 12 am: Festival cricket match for veterans 12 to 2 pm: Break for Prayer and lunch. 2 to 5 pm: Sports for ladies, children and agents.

5 to 6 pm: Formal inauguration of the festivities by Chief guest and Ambassador of India Sri Arun Kumar Budhiraja and prize distribution by Mrs Budhiraja.

The events are open for all present and former residents of Hyderabad and their families. No entry fees will be charged. Festival cricket match is open for veterans above 40 years (relaxable to 35 years). All veterans are requested to register their names with Dr Naidu (Tel: 4842578). All Hyderabadis are requested to attend the sports day and inaugural function with families and friends in large numbers.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing. SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.

FILCHECK black and white

The Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (FILCHECK) will hold its "Black and White Nite" on Thursday, 12 April 1990 at 7.00 pm at the new Kabayan Restaurant.

As the name implies, all guests and participants are to come in black and white attire to celebrate the club's Triple Firsts Affair featuring 1) the induction of its first elected Board of Directors and Officers; 2) Awarding ceremony of the First Rated Chess Tournament and 3) last but not the least, the first party ever organised by the club.

Invitation for all members are now available at the club's headquarters. For details please contact Edward or Sammy 2402405.

Messiah Beach Hotel Club
WINDSURFING: 6 levels of windsurfing lessons for beginners and intermediates. Each level lasts about 3 hours. The instructor is the present British windsurfing champion. Private lessons on request.

WATER SKIING: 2 courses, one for beginners and one for progressing to monoskiing.

SPEED BOAT INSTRUCTION: 140HP Larson. Course covers basic boat and engine maintenance, launching, piloting, mooring, etc.

SAILING: 6 levels for beginners & intermediates. Approximately 3 hours duration each level.

Each participant will be given a syllabus of training for their particular course. For further information please telephone 5624111 ext. 739.



KHC appoints new GM

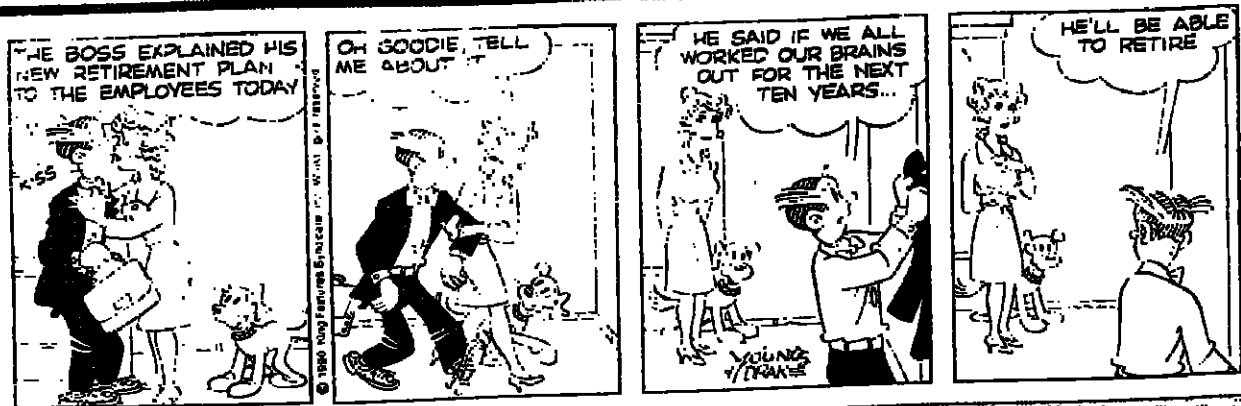
In the context of the policy of Kuwait Hotels Company to develop its technical resources, Ali Ahmed Al Ghanim Al Jabr, chairman/president promoted Ibrahim Al Shaikh Yassin, general manager of Kuwait International Airport Hotel, to the position of corporate director — Rooms Division, and Hisham Nadim Al Ekr was appointed general manager of Kuwait International Airport Hotel. Al Ekr has long experience in the area of hotel management. He worked in hotels located near London's Heathrow airport and in first-class hotels in Jordan. He also worked in one of Kuwait's de-luxe hotels in the seventies.

Kuwait Hotels Company also manages the Kuwait International Hotel, Messiah Beach Hotel, Khiran Resort, Zamalek Safir Hotel, Cairo Safir Hotel and the Nile Cruiser. Iman Safir in Egypt. The picture shows: Hisham Nadim Al Ekr (L) and Ibrahim Al Shaikh Yassin (R).

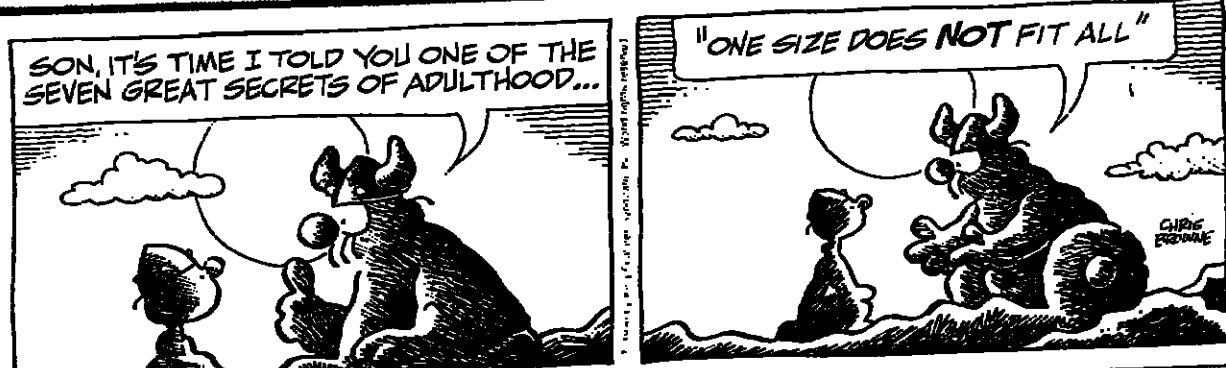
هكذا مثلاً

LEISURE

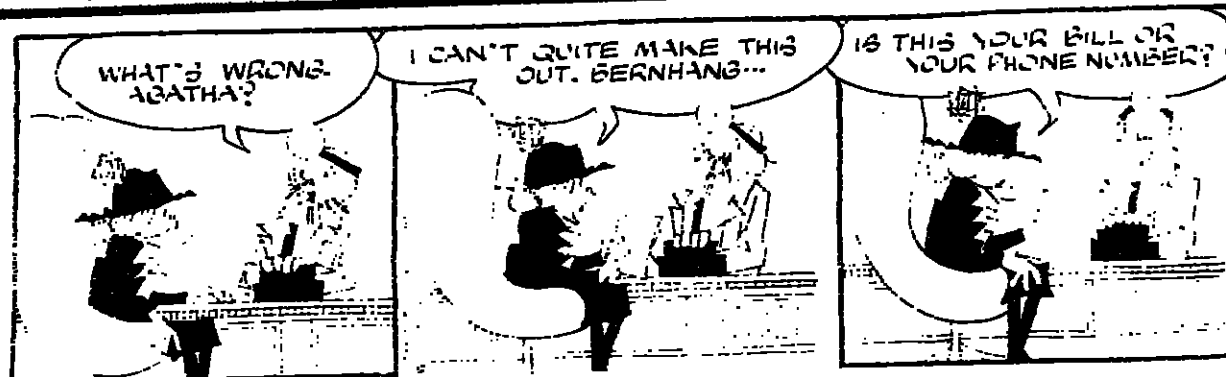
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



AGATHA CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



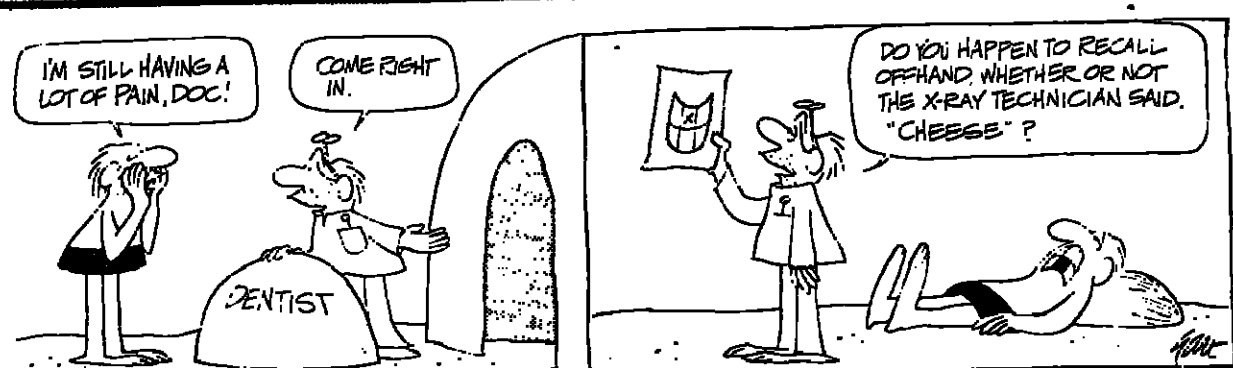
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Brian Parker & Johnny Hart



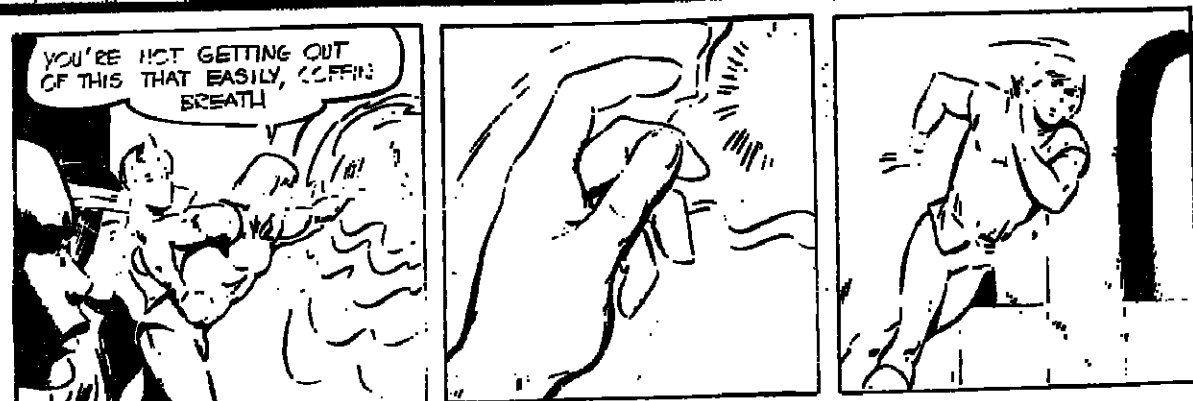
ANDY CAPP



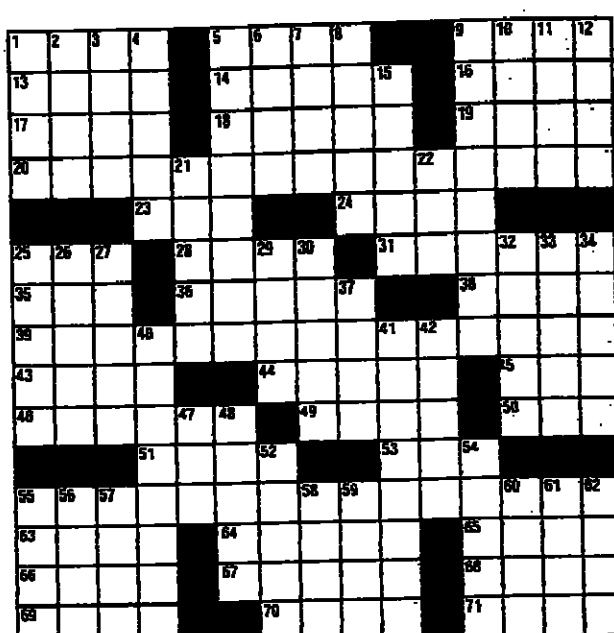
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Fortin & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



ACROSS

1 Bathes
5 Agouti's relative
9 Carry
13 Highest point
14 Missouri plateau
16 Informed
17 Waiter's handout
18 Relative of a Kuchan
19 Foray
20 Seasonal honeymoon spot?
23 Ballerina Evdokimova
24 Verve
25 Cartographer's creation
28 On the summit
31 Alpine calls
35 Bedouin's cloak
36 Rocky debris
38 Music halls
39 Seasonal? Comedian?
43 Child's need
44 Person in the pool
45 Pigs
46 Interact
49 Safe havens
50 Pig's digs
51 Part of the street scene
53 Taste
55 Seasonal resort?
63 Wicked
64 Plattigorsk's instrument
65 Funny remark
66 Sari wearer
67 Narrow opening
68 Boss of a shield
69 Gymnast Korbut

DOWN

1 Noted essayist
2 Mimic
3 One of a Latin trio
4 Discharge slowly
5 NW Coast
6 Soviet sea
7 Part of TLC
8 Bandleader Shaw
9 Puccini opera
10 Girasol
11 Labor
12 Montana's targets
15 Shade of green
21 Stop, to a seaman
22 UN agr. agcy
25 Shaw's Barbara is one
26 Beyond's
27 Jury
29 Doomsday Book coins
30 Five Comb. form
32 Idyllic places
33 Dormouse
34 Pert
37 Pitcher
40 Part of Asian Turkey
41 Musical blots?
42 Polite refusal
47 Rackstraw, for one
48 To a T
52 That is, to Titus
54 City N of Dayton
55 Sport fish
56 Avocado shape
57 Cod's cousin
58 — podrida
59 Tramp
60 Senseless
61 Sneer
62 Locale

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

OPOR BASIN CARIP
FLUE ARENA AISIA
FEAT BUCKPASSER
SARACEN ASPHALT
TILE BRIS
TENNER DEAN
FOR TRIBAL OMAN
BLEB ADIME NOVO
SADA SESAME NAG
DYER NICHIEL
CAPA HOY
EUGENES MUTABLE
BLANKCHECK LAIR
OLIN HERVE AGAIR
NYNY OASIS SISIR

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OWAN SHARPE

THE WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ A 7 4
♥ K 10 7 6 5
♦ J
♣ K 10 8 6

WEST EAST
♠ 9 ♠ Q J 6 5 2
♥ A J 3 ♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ K Q 10 9 6 5 4 ♦ 7 2
♣ J 5 ♣ 9 3

SOUTH
♠ K 10 8 3
♥ 8
♦ A 8 3
♣ A Q 7 4 2

The bidding:
West North East South
1 ♠ Dbl 1 ♠ Dbl
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♥ Dbl
3 ♥ 3 ♥ Pass 3 ♥
Pass 4 ♥ Pass Rdbl
Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

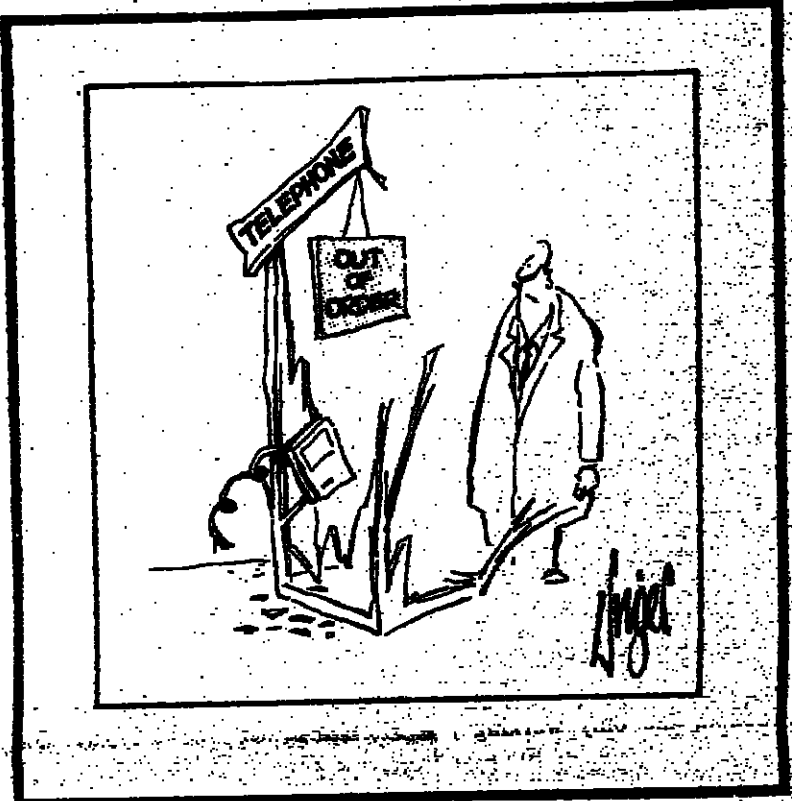
Strange are the ways of bridge experts. This auction occurred in the World Team Championship. The only bids that make any sense are West's opening bid, North's and South's doubles and West's three diamonds. In between, there was a lot of obfuscating going on.

North's double and South's first double (by partnership agreement) were both for rakeout. Thereafter,

East and West elected to bid the suits they didn't have rather than the ones they did. It is interesting to note that the one suit in which game is sure and slam a possibility—clubs—was never mentioned during the auction.

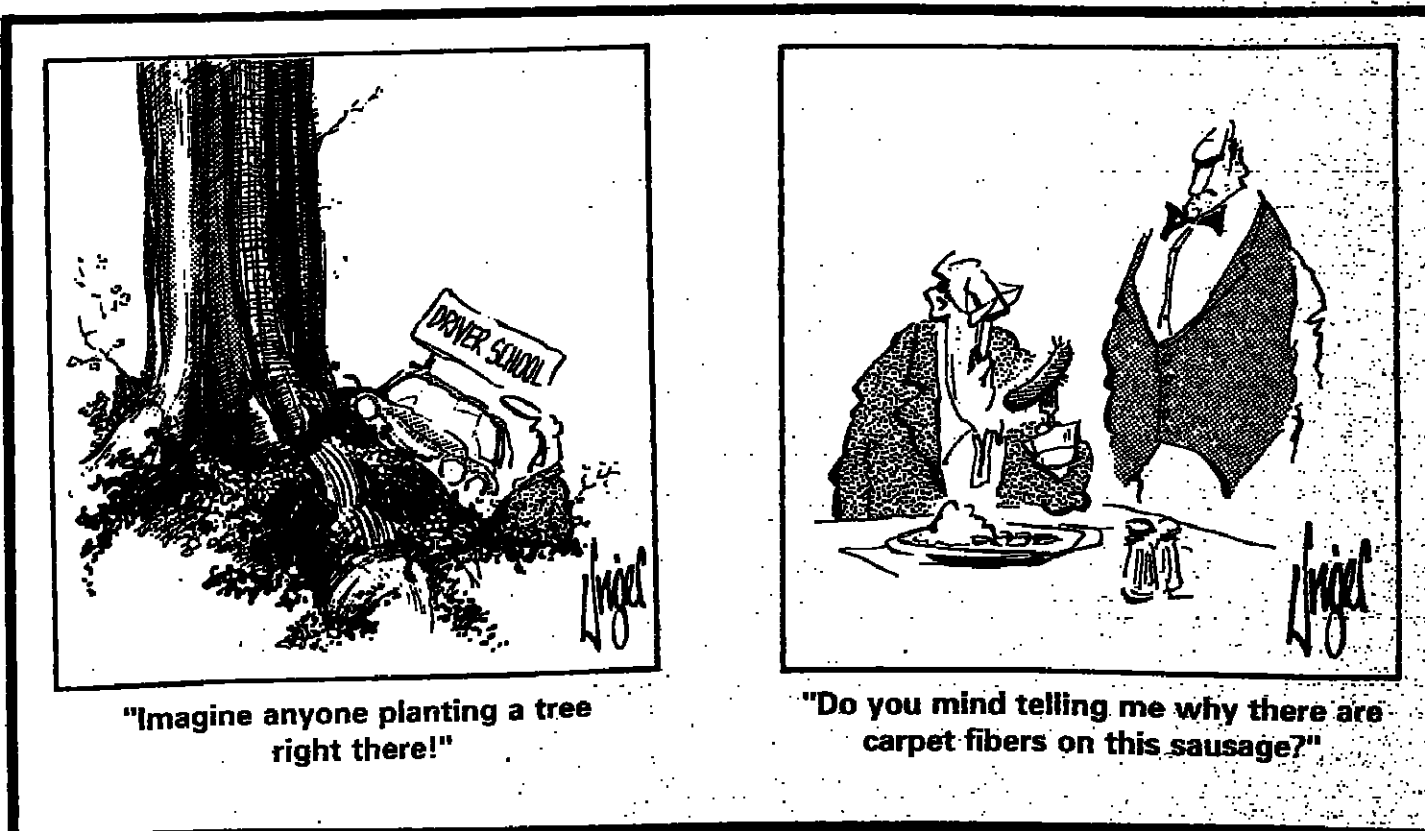
Declarer won the opening lead in hand and immediately led a heart. West rose with the ace and shifted to the jack of clubs. Since it was obvious East held the long trumps, declarer won the club in dummy and led a low spade. Since he could afford to lose two spade tricks and still make his contract, it would seem his best chance was to play East for both missing honors and, when East followed low, put in the ten. However, declarer chose to finesse the eight. That lost to West's nine and declarer eventually went down two tricks, conceding 1,000 points.

The contract would have succeeded had declarer inserted the ten of trumps. When that wins, declarer ruffs a diamond on the board, cashes the king of hearts, discarding a club from hand, then ruffs a heart in hand. A club to the ten provides the entry for another heart ruff and declarer can ruff a diamond with the ace and still score the king of trumps to fulfill his contract.



YOUR STARS

Aries March 21 - April 19 You should try to show just a little more goodwill towards others. You are liable to take too much for granted and this should be avoided. Do not permit work to encroach upon your personal life. Be consistent.	Cancer June 21 - July 20 You should not assume that others will always agree with you. Try to avoid getting into an argument particularly if the subject is something trivial. Do not place too much reliance on others, rely more on yourself. Be cordial.	Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22 Do not expect others always to do what you would like them to do. You should not allow subjective influences to distort your judgment. Take more notice of what your friends are saying. Be pertinent.	Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 19 You will tend to feel rather listless and will have to use a little more willpower to overcome the feeling. Something that you have assumed to be correct will now turn out to be wrong. You should accept the fact and change your mind accordingly. Be firm.
Taurus April 21 - May 20 You will tend to be rather too self-satisfied and should counter the tendency. Your lucky numbers are 7 and 41. You should make allowances for an expenditure which could well be a lot higher than you hope. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be reasonable.	Leo July 21 - Aug 21 You will be rather apprehensive about something about to happen. However everything will turn out much better than you had feared. A temptation to spend more than you can afford should be firmly resisted. Be generous.	Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21 You are more likely to forget things and should write things down so you can recall them. You should have a just little more faith in yourself. Make sure you do not make things easier for burglars. Be sensible.	Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 19 You will be able to make good progress with a personal matter that has been lagging behind. You should avoid dwelling too much on the past and there is no point whatever in having regrets. Something that has been puzzling you will now become much clearer.
Gemini May 21 - June 20 You should have the courage for your convictions. Take the best possible care of your health — make sure you get enough vitamins. You are liable to give the wrong impression — go out of your way not to. Be resolute.	Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22 Make sure you do not do anything that would be contrary to your principles. Listen closely to what others say and take due note of their opinions. Read no less than you watch television. Be sincere.	Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 21 You will have plenty of ideas but most of them are not very practical. You should not take everything quite so seriously. Something that you have learnt recently will now become second nature, as though you had always known it. Be moderate.	Pisces Feb 20 - March 20 You will be able to make a few changes for the better. You should do all you can to avoid getting into an argument. Make sure you get sufficient exercise, but not to the point where you overstrain yourself. Be candid.



Arab water clock chimes again

FEZ, Morocco, (Reuters): Motionless for over five centuries, an Arab water clock will chime again next year thanks to researchers who have solved the mystery of how it worked.

The Bou Inania Clepsydra, or water clock, built by Arab scientists in May 1357 in the walled city of Fez, told the time for a century to regulate Muslim prayers five times a day.

But when the Saadian Dynasty replaced Merinid rulers and moved their capital south to Marrakesh, Fez sank into decline. One day the clock stopped, and there was no one left who knew how to start it.

The clock did not tick, it dripped. It was wound up by filling a cistern with water and told time with chimes and a system of windows that opened as the hours passed.

Today the Clepsydra, a brick structure eight metres (26.25 feet) high and wide standing in a narrow street, is a sad ruin. Much of its mechanism has long disappeared.

Tourist guides cannot explain the exact operation of a row of 12 keyhole windows with bowl-shaped gongs made of brass below them.

But architect Abdellatif El Hajjami, who heads a project to restore the old quarter of Fez, told Reuters that researchers had found a manuscript written in Arabic in 1206 that details water clock mechanisms.

"We have succeeded in solving the mystery," he said. Scientists led by Mohamed Kouam of the Mohammedia Engineering School in Rabat are making a replica of the mechanism based on the document, written by one Abul Hassan Ali Al Jazna'i.

"It will be working again within one year, inshallah," (God willing), said Hajjami, who said the work will cost \$250,000.

"It will be a great tourism attraction, the only working clock of its kind in the world, demonstrating the ingenuity of Arab scientists in the Middle Ages," he said.

Clepsydras are thought to have been invented in Egypt before Christ. Developed by the Greeks and Romans, they were perfected by the Arabs in the 12th and 13th centuries.

There is now no trace of water clocks recorded by historians in Baghdad, Cordoba and Damascus. The one in Fez, built for Sultan Bou Inania of the Merinid Dynasty, is the oldest one left.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica lists Salisbury Cathedral in England as having the world's oldest working mechanical clock, built in 1386 — 29 years after Fez's Clepsydra.

Restoration of the Bou Inania clock is being financed by the Benjelloun-Mezian Foundation for Science, Culture and the Arts, a private organisation based in Casablanca.

The Clepsydra mechanism was operated by a chain running behind the row of windows. One end of it was attached to a float in the cistern and the other to a counterweight.

As water dripped out of the cistern the float descended, pulling the chain over pulleys and operating the windows. When a window opened a metal ball fell out of it, dropped on to a grooved beam and ran against one of the gongs, making it chime.



Michael Caine and Roger Moore star as connen Sidney and Gerald in the new film Bullseye!

Nicked as connen ... Bond and Palmer

How the world's top secret agents have fallen! In their latest movie Bullseye, Michael Caine and Roger Moore are small-time crooks who can't even escape from a London bobby.

By Frank Durham

THE beautiful girls are still draped decoratively around... and the locations are just as exotic... but there have been some shocking changes in the lives of secret agents James Bond and Harry Palmer.

Firstly, in their latest movie Bullseye, Michael Caine and Roger Moore are just a pair of small-time crooks. And the men who have coolly and successfully evaded some of the world's most evil villains are caught red-handed by ordinary English coppers.

Worse... they are wounded as they ply their dishonest trade as connen. Not with a poisoned arrow or even a gold-plated revolver... just a plain everyday dart in the hand and nose.

In Bullseye, cinemagoers get four stars for the price of two. For Caine and Moore play not only the connen, but two crooked scientists who look just like them.

The plot turns into a series of hilarious chases as the likely lads pinch a few diamonds while posing as the nuclear scientists, who have discovered a new process worth millions.

Locations vary from the unlikely to the outrageous as Moore and Caine hop on and off the Orient Express and even get caught up in the Highland Games. They filmed at Kent's Hever Castle, where Henry VIII wooed Anne Boleyn, and in a dreary, deserted London School.

Joining in the Keystone Kops-type revels is busy Sally Kirkland and Roger's blossoming actress daughter Deborah Barrymore.

Michael Caine, who plays connen Sidney, says: "I think you could say this film is very much like Mad Mad World, because it's just one big chase from beginning to end. Roger and I play two ordinary Englishmen, who happen to be confidence men. They wind up impersonating two nuclear scientists."

"It was a lot of fun. We had a good time, old Roger and me. I play Sidney, a Cockney, which was easy for me, and also an American, Dr Dan Hicklar, which was not so easy."

And Roger Moore, who plays Gerald, added: "Playing a dual role is difficult, because we are on screen almost all of the time. The minute they say, 'Cut', we're back on screen as the other fellows chasing each other. This means we're chasing ourselves... if you see what I mean."

In the film, the two scientists have been running a government-funded experiment with cold fusion. This is a cheap way of making energy, and a process scientists all over the world have dreamed of discovering. Drs Bavitock and Hicklar have found the formula — but refuse to admit it.

Instead, the scientists are hoping to sell their discovery to the highest bidder. So, happy in the knowledge they would be stealing from crooks, Sidney and Gerald, with the help of Willie, played by Sally Kirkland, plan a way to beat the scientists at their own game.

The three create the perfect heist and manage to pull off the job with remarkable ease, stealing \$3 million of diamonds from a London bank.

But that is only the beginning... the two have seen set up by British Intelligence agents and are arrested by humble English bobbies. Then they are given a choice. They must either go to jail, or help stop the illegal auction of plans by carrying on with their impersonation of the scientists, and selling false information instead.



Willie and Gerald come to grips with a common-or-garden dart



Your health

No link between vaccine and epilepsy

CHICAGO, (AP): A vaccine commonly administered to youngsters five times by their fifth birthday does not increase the risk for epilepsy and other neurological problems, researchers say.

Previous reports indicated a possible link between one component of diphtheria-pertussis-tetanus vaccine and such disorders.

"Our study provides reassurance to parents that DPT vaccine does not cause serious diseases of the brain," Wayne Ray, an associate professor of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University, said Thursday.

DPT vaccine is given to tens of thousands of children each week. Children typically are immunised three times in their first year of life, again at about 18 months and for the last time at around 5 years of age.

The vaccine frequently causes low fevers and some swelling at the point of immunisation.

Earlier case reports and lawsuits filed by parents against pharmaceutical companies have alleged that the pertussis, or whooping cough, component of DPT vaccine has caused seizures and even death.

But the study, reported in Friday's Journal of the American Medical Association, when seen in conjunction with other recent studies of the vaccine, should provide great reassurance to parents that there is

no such link, Ray said. Ray and the co-authors of his study examined the Medicaid records of 38,171 Tennessee children who received more than 107,000 DPT immunisations in their first week of life.

They compared the rate of neurological events such as seizures that occurred immediately following immunisation with the rate of such events that occurred 30 or more days after inoculation.

Margaux returns to life in fast lane

Sunwashed on Playboy

HOLLYWOOD, (UPI): Life in the fast lane destroyed Margaux Hemingway's film career just as it was getting under way a decade ago, but now, at 35, the granddaughter of the late, great author says she is ready to come back.

And the best way to get Hollywood's attention, she figured, was to pose nude. The statuesque model-actress is featured inside — and on the cover — of Playboy's current edition. If nothing else, she proved she is in great shape.

She insists that everything else is in order, too, claiming victory in her battle against alcohol and cocaine dependencies. Hemingway was a giddy 19-year-old when she burst of the national scene as an ingenue in *Lipstick*. The movie was terrible, but she captured the country's imagination.

A fresh-faced, outdoor girl from Ketchum, Idaho, Hemingway was a delightfully candid, naive newcomer whose love of life catapulted her into celebrity. She adorned the cover of *Time* magazine.

After all, this was Ernest Hemingway's granddaughter.

She signed a \$1 million contract to promote a perfume and toured the world. She made movies — *Killer Fish*, *A Fistful of Chopsticks* and *Over the Brooklyn Bridge* — none of which was much good.

She was married and divorced twice, moving her home from New York to Venezuela to Paris and leading a fast-paced life that was going nowhere.

Her second marriage — to Venezuelan documentary film producer Bernard Foucher — finally hit the rocks and Hemingway all but disappeared.

Some two and a half years ago she spent a month in the Betty Ford Clinic in Rancho Mirage, California, and has been sober since. She also lost 75 pounds (35 kg).

Last year she completed a movie in Paris, *Love in C Minor*, and hopes it will lead to a revived acting career in Hollywood, where she currently lives.

"I'm single and in charge of my own life for the first time," she said. "It's a marvellous feeling."

"I decided to do the Playboy layout to cause a commotion," she said. "I wanted to pose sleek and sophisticated, like an Italian version of Vogue — no garter belts or fishnet stockings. I wore nothing."

"It was artistically done in Guatemala and British Honduras. It was very high energy, high voltage. I've always been comfortable in front of a still camera, but I was nervous about posing nude."

Her younger sister Mariel twice posed nude for Playboy and was seen several times sunwashed in the movies *Personal Best* and *Star 80*.

"Mariel saw my layout and telephoned to say she loved it," Margaux said. "Coming from her, that's really a compliment."

"Things have changed between us. We get along real well now, but we've never seen a lot of each other. Mariel spends a great deal in Ketchum and Sun Valley."

Hemingway said many of her personal demons stem from the fact that she is dyslexic, making it difficult for her to read scripts. As she gained fame she became ever more insecure.

"Going to the Betty Ford Clinic changed my life around," she said. "Alcohol was my problem. It runs in the Hemingway family. So does suicide, and for a while that didn't seem like such a bad idea."

"When I left the clinic I lived in Ketchum for a while, then New York, Paris and here. I remember when I moved to New York I was only 19 and a lot of things hit me too quickly. It was life in the fast lane. I went for the volt. I wanted everything from life quickly. Eventually I hit the wall."

"I fell in love with Bernard and we moved to Venezuela to make documentaries. That took me away from acting and modelling and I started drinking a lot. Then I used cocaine. Nobody can handle that."

"You cannot abuse yourself. I developed Bulimia. I lost respect for Bernard and, worse, I lost my self-respect."

"I drank because I was living with fear. Afraid of not living up to my grandfather's image."

"Now I have no desire for alcohol or cocaine. That's the most important change in my life."

Art

Goya: last of the Old Masters

FRANCISCO Goya is sometimes called the "last of the Old Masters" and sometimes the "first modern painter." He can fulfil both roles in a way quite peculiar to him.

One of the leading authorities on his painting, Sanchez Cantón, says of Goya: "From absurd caricature to the most realistic, Goya's work is a study in extremes. He was a man of his time, yet he was a man of his own time, and his work is a study in extremes."

The Goya we encounter depends upon which painting or etching we are studying.

There is Goya the tapestry designer, who works in bright colours and broad designs of charming genre scenes of rustic pastimes. His designs, or "cartoons," would be hard to date or even to place as some of them do not even suggest "Spanishness."

There is the Goya of searing scenes of human misery under war and Napoleonic invasion. These were very forward-looking because paintings of common people in contemporary events were not considered fit material for fine art in the early 19th century.

Edouard Manet and the Impressionists struggled to make such subjects acceptable. Even Pablo Picasso was influenced by Goya.

There is the Goya of disturbing phantasmagoria and the so-called Black Paintings which might be considered forerunners of the work of 20th-century artists Edward Munch and Francis Bacon.

It might even be said that there are two distinct types of Goya portraits. One is more what we expect of a great portraitist: a solid rendering and feeling for the sitter's presence. Among these paintings, we have brilliant presentations of the titled and wealthy, including a chilling portrait of the tyrannous Ferdinand VII, King of Spain in Goya's last years.

But this charming portrait of Maria Ana, Condesa de la Ventosa and Marquesa de Pontejos, is somewhat different. This particular genre of full-length portraits of stylishly clad ladies in outdoor settings is said to have begun with Anthony Van Dyke's paintings in Genoa, Italy, a century earlier. From there the much-travelled Flemish painter went to England where he delineated the court of Charles I with bravura elegance. English painters like Gainsborough and Reynolds picked up this manner of portraiture.

As there is something reminiscent of the English painters in this portrait (maybe it's the "Gainsborough hat"), it is theorized that Goya had access to mezzotint engravings of their best work. However, Goya harked back to the fine silver and pink colour scheme which his predecessor of a century prior, Diego Velazquez, used so effectively.

But the brushwork is Goya at his most brilliant. Even Velazquez would have been hard put to equal the exquisite rendering of the extraordinarily delightful "shepherdess" style gown with its gauzy overskirt. If one looks carefully at the area where the pleating falls over her dainty feet one can see not only the ankles showing through but also a hint of the lace edging her purplish underskirt.

And nothing could be more charming than the tiny real roses nestled into the folds of the pulled skirt with their ribbons bows. But what about the woman posing? What do we learn about her besides the fact that she can afford the fanciest attire, has a tiny waist, and likes flowers? We wonder why the punk carnation droops in her consciously elegant grasp. Some art historians have theorized that the rather scant attention paid to the lady's face indicated Goya's irritation with the frivolity and shallowness of the court. Certainly, in various etchings his inscriptions indicate these feelings.

However, in 1786 when Goya executed this elegant painting he had just been made a painter to King Carlos III. It was an honour which he had sought since 1779. A letter to a friend records his joy and elation when the monarch, his son, and daughter came to see some of Goya's paintings or cartoons for tapestries. Being a painter to the king brought with it a comfortable stipend and greater access to the aristocracy.

His experience as a tapestry designer shows prominently in the background of this portrait with its vaguely stylized treatment of the foliage. The various horizontal bands of greens set off the silvery vertical of the figure. Three diagonally placed bands of the reddish ground in front of the dog, the sandy ground on which the figure stands, with a group of tiny wild flowers, and the very amorphous band of dark green give a feeling of forward movement to the otherwise stationary group.

Reynolds picked up this manner of portraiture. As there is something reminiscent of the English painters in this portrait (maybe it's the "Gainsborough hat"), it is theorized that Goya had access to mezzotint engravings of their best work. However, Goya harked back to the fine silver and pink colour scheme which his predecessor of a century prior, Diego Velazquez, used so effectively. But the brushwork is Goya at his most brilliant. Even Velazquez would have been hard put to equal the exquisite rendering of the extraordinarily delightful "shepherdess" style gown with its gauzy overskirt. If one looks carefully at the area where the pleating falls over her dainty feet one can see not only the ankles showing through but also a hint of the lace edging her purplish underskirt. And nothing could be more charming than the tiny real roses nestled into the folds of the pulled skirt with their ribbons bows. But what about the woman posing? What do we learn about her besides the fact that she can afford the fanciest attire, has a tiny waist, and likes flowers? We wonder why the punk carnation droops in her consciously elegant grasp. Some art historians have theorized that the rather scant attention paid to the lady's face indicated Goya's irritation with the frivolity and shallowness of the court. Certainly, in various etchings his inscriptions indicate these feelings. However, in 1786 when Goya executed this elegant painting he had just been made a painter to King Carlos III. It was an honour which he had sought since 1779. A letter to a friend records his joy and elation when the monarch, his son, and daughter came to see some of Goya's paintings or cartoons for tapestries. Being a painter to the king brought with it a comfortable stipend and greater access to the aristocracy. His experience as a tapestry designer shows prominently in the background of this portrait with its vaguely stylized treatment of the foliage. The various horizontal bands of greens set off the silvery vertical of the figure. Three diagonally placed bands of the reddish ground in front of the dog, the sandy ground on which the figure stands, with a group of tiny wild flowers, and the very amorphous band of dark green give a feeling of forward movement to the otherwise stationary group.

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Dr. AbdulHakim Malek and family

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Evert aims to start a family by winter

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 6. (Reuters) Chris Evert is too busy to start a family this summer — but she hopes to become pregnant by winter when her schedule is less hectic.

"This month I'm not pregnant," the 34-year-old former Wimbledon and US Open Champion said yesterday. "If it happens, it will be wonderful, but we are not trying right now."

Evert, who married former Olympic skier Andy Mill in 1988, said that her plan had always been to wait to have children until a year after she retired. She made her farewell appearance last September at the US Open.

"I always said I would wait a year after I retired. The next six months are very strenuous with commitments I have made. I hate to put my schedule ahead of a baby, but it would be much easier if I could be pregnant next winter," Evert said.

Evert has been busier in retirement than she was on the professional tour, devoting her time to endorsement commitments, television commercials, charity events and an exhibition tour with Martina Navratilova.

"I can't tell you what a typical day of retirement is like because I haven't had one," Evert said. "I've been on the road the last four months."

Evert was named special adviser to the US Tennis Association yesterday and will actively monitor the progress at major events of team members such as 14-year-old Jennifer Capriati, who has dubbed her successor as the queen of American tennis.

She also makes her debut as a television commentator this week with Bud Collins for NBC and will also cover the French Open and Wimbledon for the network in partnership with a former boyfriend, two-time Wimbledon champion Jimmy Connors.

During her 18 years on the professional tour Evert won a record 157 singles titles, including 15 in Grand Slam events.

Gilbert routs Brown for quarterfinals

ORLANDO, Fla., April 6. (Reuters) Top seed Brad Gilbert regained his top form and easily turned back fellow American Jimmy Brown 6-2 6-1 in a 54-minute second round match at the \$250,000 Orlando Tennis Classic yesterday.

The fifth-ranked Gilbert, who was extremely unhappy with his play during Wednesday's first round win, clearly found his groove against Brown.

"I stroked the ball a lot better today," Gilbert said. "I had a good practice out there."

Second seed Aaron Krickstein, however, was forced to withdraw after suffering a pulled right hamstring during practice allowing unknown West German Alexis Hombrecher to advance without hitting a ball.

The 19-year-old Hombrecher, who will play American David Pate in the quarterfinals said: "I feel bad for Aaron, but I'm a young, up-and-coming player and I'll take a win any day. It's a big break for me."

Gilbert, who next faces countryman Joey Rive, constantly attacked the 121st-ranked Brown's weak second serve with success and forced his unseeded opponent into numerous errors with a tricky slice backhand.

The other quarterfinals pit third seed Christo van Rensburg of South Africa against Australian Jason Stoltenberg, while fourth seed Scott Davis takes on fellow American Malival.

Vijay Amritraj faces suspension

NEW DELHI, April 6. (Reuters) Vijay Amritraj, India's leading tennis player, faces suspension by his country's authorities after allegations of misconduct.

The secretary of the All India Tennis Association (AITA), Rajkumar Khanna, said on Wednesday, Amritraj had until April 18 to explain "acts of indiscipline or face suspension."

"For the past 18 months, the AITA executive committee has been following with increasing disapproval the actions and utterances of Amritraj," Khanna said.

"After reviewing the case it came to the conclusion that the time had come to take disciplinary action against him."

Richards & Co. slam England

Best boosts West Indies

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, April 6. (Reuters) Carlisle Best hit a brilliant maiden Test century and Viv Richards marked his return with thrilling innings of 70 as West Indies took charge on the opening day of the fourth cricket Test against England yesterday.

Barbadian Best pulled fast bowler Devon Malcolm for his 12th four to complete his century from what proved to be the last delivery of the day at Kensington Oval.

A pitch invasion by his ecstatic

fellow Bajan caused delay of several minutes before the empire's offer to go off for bad light was accepted by the batsmen.

West Indies, put in by England captain Allan Lamb when he won the toss, were 311 for five at the close with Best unbeaten on 102, having faced 160 balls and batted for 294 minutes.

Best was the cornerstone for West Indies while his captain Richards, who missed the third Test with recurrence of haemorrhoids, came in at 108 for three

and fired his team with a compelling half century.

Richards was particularly savage on Devon Malcolm, England's fast bowling hero of the first and third Tests who ended the day having conceded 105 runs in 19.3 overs without taking a wicket.

Glendon Small and David Capel each took two wickets while the other fell to fellow pace bowler Phillip DeFreitas, a late inclusion for the injured Angus Fraser.

England, who lead 1-0 in the five-test series, were also without captain Graham Gooch, whose left hand was broken in two places in the previous Test, and replacement opener David Smith, who was ruled out by a bruised thumb.

The pitch lacked much of the life it was expected to produce and, although quick, was close to being an ideal batting track with the ball coming on to the bat.

England's four-man pace attack generally bowled too short and were unable to repeat their heroic performances of the opening Test in Kingston, where the touring team won by nine wickets, and the drawn third Test in Port of Spain.

Richards, bitterly disappointed at his dismissal when well set, now needs a further 56 runs to pass Sir Garfield Sobers' record for Test runs by a West Indian of 8,032.

In his first-class innings since February 26, Richards gave no hint of his absence from the game as he tore in to the England attack after a brief look at the bowling. He began his assault by hitting Capel for two fours in an over and then took 18 off one Malcolm over.

The West Indian captain had arrogantly declared before the match that "these Englishmen need teaching a lesson," and he seemed to be carrying out his threat when he hooked Malcolm twice for six as well as cutting him four in the space of four deliveries.

Richards and Best put on 119 for the fourth wicket, the first 50

being scored in only 52 balls, of which Richards' contribution was 41.

Richards' next 29 runs took 20 overs before Capel, in a fine second spell, contained and finally dismissed the Antiguan with an outwinger which was edged to Jack Russell.

Best reached his half century from 90 balls and then beat his previous highest Test score of 65 against England in the series opener in Kingston.

Best and a belligerent Gus Logie put on 64 in 14 overs before Logie was caught behind off Capel for 31 from 51 balls, leaving Jeff Dujon to partner Best to three figures.

England had made the ideal start to the match when Desmond Haynes went for nought when he was undone by extra bounce from Small's sixth ball and caught at short leg.

Richie Richardson, dropped on nine by Capel in the gully off DeFreitas, went on to add 63 in 21 overs with Gordon Greenidge for the second wicket.

DeFreitas broke the stand when he got one to go away off the seam and take the edge of Greenidge's bat to give Russell a catch, the opener's 41 came off 77 balls.

The admirable Small dismissed Richardson when an attempted hook was top-edged to Russell, the Antiguan having made 45 from 89 balls with eight fours.

Scoreboard

WEST INDIES first innings	
G Greenidge c Russell b DeFreitas	41
D Haynes c Stewart b Small	4
R Richardson c Russell b Small	45
C Best not out	102
V Richardson c Russell b Capel	70
G Logie c Russell b Capel	31
J Dujon not out	2
Extras (lb 4 nb 16)	20
Total (five wickets)	311
Fall of wickets 1-62-69-3-108-4-227-5-291	
To bat M Marshall, E Moseley, C Ambrose, I Bishop	
Bowling (to date): Malcolm 19-3-3-105-0, Small 21-3-62-2, DeFreitas 22-2-80-1, Capel 19-4-60-2, England: W Larkins, A Stewart, R Bailey, A Lamb (captain), D Malcolm	



Small leaps into the air after having Haynes caught by Stewart. (Reuters wirephoto)

Capriati upsets Sanchez

HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C., April 6. (Reuters) American teen sensation Jennifer Capriati crushed French Open champion Arantxa Sanchez Vicario 6-1 6-1 in just 45 minutes yesterday for the biggest win of her blossoming professional career.

Capriati's complete domination of the fifth-ranked Sanchez Vicario in their third-round encounter at this \$500,000 clay court event was doubly impressive coming on the Spaniard's favourite surface.

"This is my best win," said the 14-year-old Capriati, who will face eighth-seeded Canadian Helen Klesi in the quarterfinals.

"At first I thought it was going to be tough because she is a top player, but I got ahead and never gave her a chance to get back into the match."

Capriati, who turned professional last month, controlled the baseline rallies with powerful groundstrokes as she ran the frustrated Sanchez Vicario from side-to-side.

"If I hit the ball into the middle of the court, she hit

a winner every time. Nothing worked for me today," said the second-seeded Spaniard.

Regina Rajchrtova of Czechoslovakia took advantage of a lack of concentration from seventh-seeded Peruvian Laura Gildemeister to score a 6-6-2 upset and join Capriati as the only unseeded players in the quarterfinals. Rajchrtova will play third-seeded American Zina Garrison.

Fourth seed Conchita Martinez of Spain also advanced to a quarterfinal against sixth-seeded Soviet Natalia Zvereva, while fifth seed Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria earned a showdown with top seed Martina Navratilova, who she upset last week in Houston.

Capriati, playing in just her third tournament since turning pro, is not yet ranked. But she reached the final in her professional debut and upset top-10 player Helena Sukova twice in as many weeks last month.

"I played well against Sukova the first time I played her, but I played better today," she said.

Ex-champ to whip addicts into shape

STOCKHOLM, April 6. (Reuters) Swedish ex-world heavyweight boxing champion Ingemar Johansson has a new vocation to rehabilitate young drug addicts through tough physical training.

Johansson, now 57, knocked out American Floyd Patterson in 1959, making Sweden one of the few countries which can boast a professional world heavyweight champion.

Under a preliminary plan agreed with welfare authorities in the Stockholm suburb Botkyrka, he will whip seven amphetamine addicts aged 18 to 22 into shape — beginning with daily jogging.

The seven will travel to Johansson's home on the Spanish island of Majorca in the second half of the year for a tough programme of physical training.

"The trip will be a carrot for the boys. The idea is also to arrange some sporting competitions down there between them and other youngsters," said Botkyrka drug rehabilitation chief Berit Astrom.

Tennis stars to face protests

JOHANNESBURG, April 6. (Reuters) Anti-apartheid activists pledged yesterday to burn effigies of US and Australian tennis stars this weekend in protest at their participation in a South African tournament.

"Anti-racism committees nationally will burn effigies of the tennis players involved in the present games as one of the forms of protest action," said the non-racial National Sports Congress.

(NSC), shifting its attention to tennis after successful action against a tour by rebel English cricketers earlier this year.

The NSC advocates South Africa's isolation from international sports until apartheid race segregation is scrapped. In February it led country-wide protests which forced Mike Gatting and his cricket team to cut short a tour.

Motta loses

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 6. (Reuters) Third seeded Brazilian Cassio Motta lost his concentration and the match after having problems with the umpire during the Rio de Janeiro Open tennis tournament yesterday.

Motta went down 7-6 (8-6) 4-3 to unseeded Simone Colombo of Italy after Australian umpire Chris O'Brien penalised him one point for arguing during his second round match.

Seventh-seeded Brad Pearce was also knocked out, losing 6-3 5-7 6-1 to Paul Vojtesek of West Germany.

Donald shoots 8-under-par for Masters lead

AUGUSTA, GA., April 6. (Reuters) American Mike Donald, playing in his first Masters, shot a dream round at the Augusta National Golf Club yesterday to seize the first-round lead with an 8-under-par score of 64.

Donald, who has one victory in 11 years on the US PGA Tour, posted seven birdies in nine holes in the middle of his round to take a two-stroke lead over fellow American John Huston. Another stroke back was Peter Jacobsen.

"All I can say is that was the round of my life," the 34-year-old Donald said after he combined brilliant shot making with some good luck to finish just one stroke off the recorder for the 6,905-yard course.

"When you're a kid growing up you always dream about playing in the Masters," he said. "I never played that good (in my dreams)."

After opening with three pars, thanks to two good chip shots, Donald ran off three consecutive birdies with putts of 40, 20 and 15 feet on the 4th, 5th and 6th holes.

"After that I felt I had a cush (cushion)," said Donald, who then missed an eight-foot birdie putt on the seventh.

He closed out the front nine with a 20-foot birdie putt at the 8th hole and a chip-in from 40 feet on the 9th where, he said, "I was just trying to get close."

Donald's front nine of 31 was just one stroke off the course record.

Slicing

He started the back nine by sinking a six-footer for birdie at 10 and saved par at 11 with a sand shot to eight feet after slicing his drive right through some big pine trees.

"A hell of a break," he said. Donald, who also led the first round of the 1984 US Open, then birdied the par-three 12th with a putt of 1-1/2 feet.

"I was just trying to get it on the green," he said of his tee shot on the 155-yard 13th hole, the heart of Augusta National's famous Amen Corner.

Donald's final birdie came at the 500-yard 15th when he laid up with his second shot and gave himself a four-foot birdie putt with a 77-yard sand wedge approach.

His 64 was one shot off the course record of 63 set by Nick Price of Zimbabwe in 1986.

"I was hoping I didn't shoot a bad round," Donald said of his first official round at Augusta



Scotland's Sandy Lyle watches his putt drop in for a par. (Reuters wirephoto)

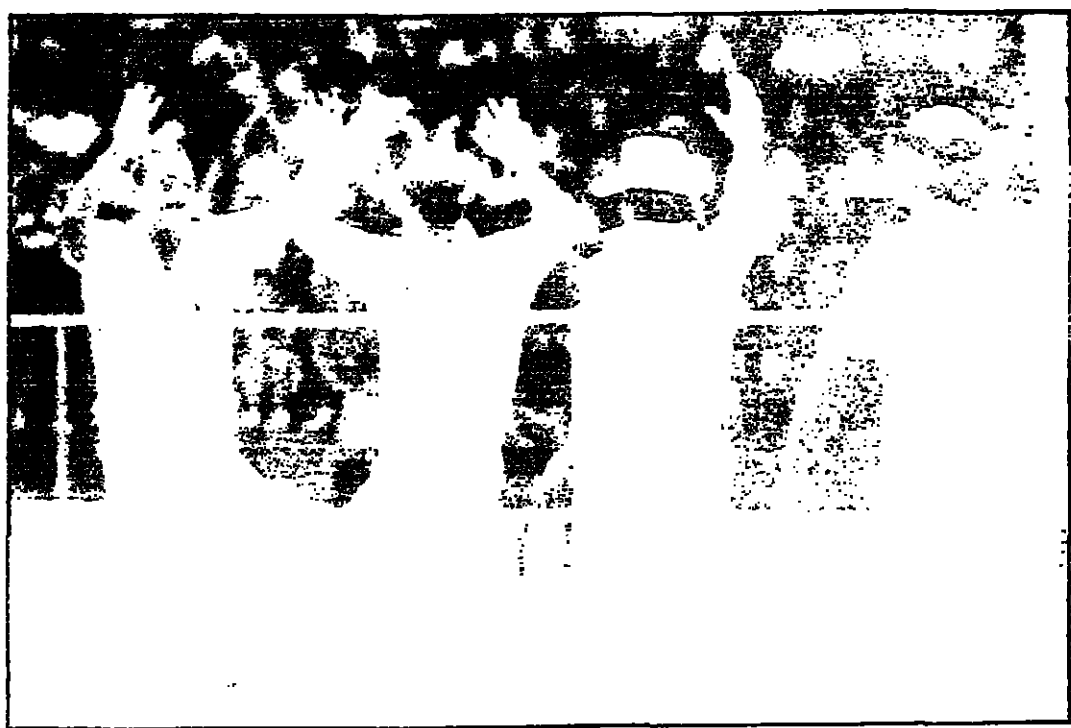


Nicklaus (left) offers Norman some advice during first-round play. (Reuters wirephoto)

National, the permanent home of the Masters which most of the other 84 golfers in the field found rather difficult.

With about two-thirds of the field in the clubhouse, only a dozen other players had broken par of 72.

Closest to Donald were Huston, who carded a 66, and Jacobsen, who came in with a 67. Like Donald, neither of those players



English players celebrate with DeFreitas (left) after Greenidge was dismissed. (Reuters wirephoto)



DeFreitas (right) shows his joy at dismissing Greenidge. (Reuters wirephoto)

Riders slam track ahead of US GP

MONTEREY, California, April 6. (Reuters) Wayne Gardner has good reason to feel apprehensive about Sunday's US Motorcycle Grand Prix.

The Australian smashed his leg badly on the Laguna Seca circuit in last year's race, a crash that cost him any chance of the world 500 cc crown.

Honda rider Gardner said after a recent test: "I'm very, very wary around here. I still think it's a dangerous track. It's being improved but they still have a way to go."

The 1987 world champion wants more run-off areas with more open ground — and less concrete walls.

Gardner is not only leading rider to express concern. Riders' safety representative Sito Pons of Spain, twice 250 cc world champion and now in the bigger-engined class, said: "I have already talked to the organisers. They know what to do and want to do it. But they must do it."

Gardner apart, two other riders were hurt last year, though the track could not be blamed. Promising American Bobba Shober was critically injured on a post-race slowing down lap after colliding with Australian Kevin Magee.

Shober has recovered enough to ride a street bike but he cannot race.

Laguna Seca director Lee Mozelle said: "We are making these changes. Number one because we are as interested in safety as the riders are. It may not be our bodies, but it is in our interest too."

Gardner made a good start to the 1990 series, finishing second behind American Wayne Rainey in last month's season-opener in Japan.

Rainey, second in last year's championship, said he does not feel threatened by the presence of reigning champion and compatriot Eddie Lawson in his own Yamaha team.

"If anything, it's going to help," said Rainey, faster of the two in pre-season testing. "He brings a lot of experience to the team."

Gardner predicts a four-way battle for the honours this season: Lawson, Rainey, and another American, Kevin Schwantz, plus himself.

Ruddock KOs Dokes

NEW YORK, April 6. (Reuters) Donovan "Razor" Ruddock demolished Michael Dokes in the fourth round to win the World Boxing Association intercontinental heavyweight title on Wednesday and emphatically stake his claim to a world title fight.

Canadian Ruddock, who was scheduled to fight Mike Tyson last November before Tyson pulled out because of illness, hit Dokes with three lefts in a row to end the fight, which was scheduled for 12 rounds.

"He was probably out on his feet after the second punch," ringside doctor Barry Jordan said afterward about the American punch.

Dokes, 31, was unconscious for two minutes and did not get up from the corner of the ring where he lay crumpled for at least seven minutes. He was to be observed all night and awakened every two hours on a "neuro" watch, the doctor said.

The winner of this fight was expected in boxing circles to be in line to meet Tyson, who lost his title to James Douglas in February. Tyson is rumoured to be close to signing for such a fight in June.

Ruddock's manager Murad Muhammad said after the knockout that his fighter had not sparred for the last three weeks because of an injured right hand and was worried about using it on Wednesday.

"The left hook is very easy to block, so I had to use a combination of left hook and uppercut," Ruddock, 26, said. My trainer calls it a "smash."

"I really did think I was going to hurt him, but that's my job," said Ruddock, whose record is now 23-1-1.

Two other former WBA champions also were on the card. James Bonescu Smith, 35, beat Mike Weaver, 37, on a unanimous points decision after 12 rounds in a fight punctuated by boos from the crowd of about 11,000.

Smith, the only US heavyweight champion to graduate from college, won the WBA title with a first-round knockout of Tim Witherspoon in 1986 at Madison Square Garden.

He lost his first defence when Tyson beat him with a points decision in 1987. He was stopped by Larry Holmes in a title fight in 1984.

Nazario stops Rosario

NEW YORK, April 6. (Reuters) Juan Nazario, fighting like a buzz saw, won the World Boxing Association lightweight title after opening a deep cut over the eye of fellow Puerto Rican Edwin Rosario which forced the referee to stop the fight after the eighth round on Wednesday.

Nazario, 26, was ahead on all three judges' scorecards when the fight was stopped.

Rosario, also 26, claimed the cut, which bled down the side of his eye, was caused by a head butt.

But Nazario said it was the result of a combination to the head. Referee Louis Rivera of the United States agreed.

"I don't think he won on boxing ability," Rosario said. "It was the cut."

Both men came prepared to fight, but it appeared that Nazario wanted the title more than his opponent.

"He's never been a world champion," Rosario said. "So he must have been hungry because he's a world champion now."

Birdies

A half dozen players posted 70s, including former Masters champions Larry Mize and Bernhard Langer of West Germany and back-to-back US Open winner Curtis Strange.

Defending champion Nick Faldo of Britain was among a group of players at 71. Faldo had an up-and-down round that included five birdies and four bogies.

Huston, a third-year professional also playing in his first Masters, made three birdies on each nine of the Augusta National's perfectly manicured course.

"I played extremely well today," said Huston, whose father taught him the game and watched him play. "I didn't hit a bad shot and I never got into trouble."

The 28-year-old Floridian, who won his first professional tournament one month ago, became something of a celebrity early in March when he won a US PGA Tour event in Florida after being told just before the opening round that the shoes he had been wearing for two years on the tour were illegal.

McCallum to face Watson in title fight

LONDON, April 6. (Reuters) Mike McCallum fended off questions about his age yesterday and said the only question to be settled by his World Boxing Association (WBA) middleweight title defence was how easily he would beat Brian Michael Watson.

The Jamaican champion and Watson met face to face in a news conference with a distinct sense of déjà vu — the April 14 fight was originally scheduled for last November but was called off when the challenger broke his nose in sparring.

"The Body Snatcher," for his ferocious body punching that has seen through seven successful title defences, was repeatedly asked about his age as reporters openly suggested he might be past his best.

At first he refused to divulge his date of birth — despite it being widely known — but was finally stung into speech by a barbed remark by Watson's manager Mickey Duff.

"Michael has benefited from the champion having another fight (against Steve Cullins in Boston in February). At his age it's something he needs like a hole in the head. If he had another (fight) I'd be even more delighted," said Duff.

"You are going to see on the 14th. You don't have to worry about my age. I'll still be the champion," said McCallum, who moved up a division and won the vacant title in London last May against Briton Herol Graham on a split points decision.

He won the Collins fight on points after 12 rounds and has a record of 38 fights and only one defeat.

SPORTS

Marseille, Juventus, Anderlecht win

Milan edge Bayern

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): A solitary goal struck from the penalty spot by European Footballer of the Year Marco van Basten kept alive AC Milan's hopes of retaining the European Cup on Wednesday when they beat Bayern Munich 1-0 in a tightly-contested semifinal first leg in Italy.

Van Basten, who spearheads both the Milan and Netherlands attacks, scored 13 minutes from the end of the outstanding tie on a night of four semifinals in the three European soccer competitions.

But his goal, after he was held back by Jurgen Kohler, was scant reward for some persistent attacking play on a difficult pitch and may not be enough to guarantee survival when the Italians visit Bavaria for the second leg in two weeks.

Bayern, winners of the premier European trophy in 1975, 1976 and 1977, will start the second leg as favourites to clinch their place in the final to be played in Vienna on May 23 after surviving a torrid test in front of 65,000 fans at the Giuseppe Meazza stadium.

The other European Cup semifinal in Marseille was equally finely balanced with Portuguese champions Benfica striking an early goal but finally losing 2-1 to the French champions.

Adesludo Lima headed Benfica ahead in the 10th minute, but goals by Franck Sauzee and Jean-Pierre Papin, his sixth in the competition this season, secured victory for the Frenchmen whose president Bernard Tapis has invested \$45 million in the hope of seeing them become the first

French team to win the trophy.

Tapie and his team, like AC Milan and their president Silvio Berlusconi, were hoping for a more emphatic winning margin from their home leg in order to

set up a dream Mediterranean final between the Italian holders and the French champions.

"It is very difficult now to say whether 2-1 will be enough for us to get through, but we have never

lost away in the European Cup this season," said Marseille coach Gerard Gili.

"One thing is certain — we shall play the same attacking game in Lisbon as we did tonight."

For Milan, the disappointment in securing only a one-goal advantage must have been aggravated by frustration in knowing that their most influential player, Dutchman Ruud Gullit, is only weeks away from fitness.

It was his explosive creative play and finishing which launched Milan to their crushing victories over Real Madrid and Steaua Bucharest in last season's semifinal and final.

It was much the same story in the Cup Winners' Cup and the UEFA Cup semifinals with only one goal dividing the teams involved.

In Brussels, Anderlecht, twice winner of the trophy, beat Dinamo Bucharest 1-0 in their Cup Winners' Cup tie, a 64th minute goal by Luc Nilis deciding the outcome.

The Romanians' goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea was unable to hold a fierce shot by Marc Degryse and Nilis was on hand to volley the ball in from close range.

In the UEFA Cup, Juventus cruised into a 3-0 lead in less than an hour against Cologne, but then allowed the West Germans to storm back into the game during the closing stages and ended up hanging on for a 3-2 win.

Rui Barros put the Italians ahead after 21 minutes and further goals from Pier-Luigi Casiraghi and Giancarlo Marochi put them totally in command before complacency crept in.



Enzo Francescoli (left) of Marseille and Benfica's Santos Aldair fight for the ball. (Reuters wirephoto)



Cologne's Falke (left) heads the ball into the goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

Barcelona beat Real for Spanish Cup

VALENCIA, Spain, April 6, (Reuters): Barcelona pulled off a Spanish Cup soccer triumph yesterday with a 2-0 victory in the final over Real Madrid, who had a player sent off and their ambitions of another League and Cup double shattered.

Real, winners of both trophies last season, were reduced to 10 men in the second half after Fernando Hierro was sent off just before halftime for a foul on Barcelona's Roberto Fernandez.

The Catalans' upset win against their in-form arch-rivals was secured by goals from Guillermo Amor after 68 minutes and Julio Salinas in the second minute of injury time in the second half.

Barcelona's 22nd cup title helped to celebrate Dutchman coach Johan Cruyff's 100th match as Barcelona coach, while it marked Real's first defeat for exactly five months.

Both sides skated helplessly on the rain-soaked pitch in the early exchanges, and Barcelona's confidence was shaken when defender Aloisio Pires was carried off with an injured knee after falling awkwardly after 25 minutes.

Real, who have an unassailable grip on the League title, missed two clear chances in the first half, while the second period produced a flurry of yellow cards.

But the Catalans had found their composure and seized the lead when Real goalkeeper Paco Buyo knocked out a cannonball shot from Ronald Koeman in the 68th minute.

Aitor Beguiristain scooped it up and lobbed it to Amor, who sneaked behind Buyo and headed into an empty goal.

After two minutes of injury time, Salinas sealed success with the second goal.

"Fernando's expulsion was perhaps the key to the game," said Real's British coach John Toshack.

Red Rum's National record could topple

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): Red Rum's record Grand National time could topple tomorrow on the lightning-fast Aintree turf, even though the 40 jockeys will be warned to "go slow".

After another dry night in Liverpool, the ground continued to firm up. Clerk of the course Parrett said today: "The going is good to firm on the National course ... but no rain is forecast."

"I might have to give the official National going tomorrow as firm but there is plenty of spring in this wonderful old turf and I am sure no horse will be jarred up."

In the usual pre-race briefing, stewards will advise the jockeys to take it easy over the first three fences. But with the going so fast, the record time of nine minutes 1.90 seconds, set by Red Rum when he beat the front-running Crisp in 1973, may be beaten.

Red Rum's time over the 30 obstacles and four and half miles (7.2 km) represents 30 mph (48 kph) — a breathtaking average speed over such a tough course.

Tomorrow's field contains, however, a smattering of classy performers, one of which might just beat the nine-minute barrier.

They include Brown Windsor, the 7-1 favourite and the ever-improving Call Collect (8-1), although, ironically, the latter does not want the ground too fast to show his best form.

Meanwhile, Irish trainer Frank Lacy walked the course today with his 100-1 chance Lanavee, unworried by the prospect of adding his first runner in England.

"It is perfect ground, I'm not worried about the race and would never be afraid of Becher's Brook. I think it is overrated."

Roll-a-Joint (40-1), English trainer Chris Popham's first National runner, was out of his box to stretch his legs.

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Libregts loses battle to save job



Thijs Libregts

THE HAGUE, April 6, (Reuters): Dutch national soccer coach Thijs Libregts lost a legal battle to save his job on Wednesday, leaving the way open for a new coach to be appointed to take charge of the side in the World Cup finals.

A Dutch district court in Utrecht rejected his request for an injunction against the Dutch Soccer Association (KNVB) for the right to serve out his contract which expires on July 1 during the World Cup finals.

Libregts guided the Dutch to the finals in Italy, which start on June 8, but has lost the confidence of leading players.

The court ruled relations between Dutch national side and Libregts had become "unworkable and untenable" and said the KNVB had the right under the circumstances to take necessary actions to put an end to the situation.

Flo Jo expecting child in Nov

NEW YORK, April 6, (AP): Florence Griffith Joyner, the heroine of the US squad at the 1988 Olympics, is expecting her first child in November, her business agent has announced.

"She was delighted to hear the news," Gordon Baskin said yesterday.

Griffith Joyner also known as Flo Jo, won gold medals in the 100-metre and 200-metre dashes and the 400-metre relay and a silver medal in the 1,600 metre at the Seoul games. She also is the world record-holder in the 100 and 200.

Her husband is Al Joyner, the 1984 Olympics gold medalist in the triple jump.

Everton blast Forest

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): Tony Cottee and Norman Whiteside scored two goals apiece to lead Everton to an emphatic 4-0 home victory over Nottingham Forest in the English Soccer First Division on Wednesday.

Cottee opened Everton's tally in the 12th minute and turned provider a minute later, supplying the pass which enabled the unmarked Whiteside to side-foot home a simple chance.

Northern Ireland international Whiteside headed the third minute before the interval and Cottee netted the fourth, also from a header, four minutes before the full whistle.

The win lifted Everton into fourth place, 11 points adrift of city rivals Liverpool.

Norwich moved up to seventh with a 2-0 home win over Crystal

Palace, the goals coming in the first half from Tim Sherwood and an own goal by Gary O'Reilly.

England captain Bryan Robson is expected to make his return for Manchester United in their Football Association (FA) Cup semifinal against Oldham on Sunday after three and a half months on the sidelines.

Liverpool play Crystal Palace in the other semifinal, kicking off three and a half hours earlier at midday to allow television to show both matches live.

Television executives have added to the disturbance of tomorrow's normal English League programme by causing the top clash between champions Arsenal and second-placed Aston Villa to be moved to mid-week for live coverage.

United's FA Cup opponents,

Second Division Oldham, have already reached the final of the League Cup against Nottingham Forest 29 but their form has suffered recently.

Results

English League		
Division One	4	Notts Forest
Division Two	2	Crystal P
West Bromwich	1	West Ham
Fulham	0	Walsall
Wigan	1	Bristol R
Carlisle	3	Cambridge
Lincoln	2	Torquay
Maidstone	2	Rochdale
Scottish League		
Premier Division	0	Dundee
Division One	2	Albion
Division Two	0	Stranraer
Stirling	0	Berwick

Player dies after heart attack

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 6, (Reuters): A 23-year-old professional soccer player died in hospital on Wednesday shortly after suffering a heart attack during a league match.

Joao Pedro, a left back with Sport Recife, one of Brazil's top 20 clubs, collapsed in the 70th minute of his team's 4-0 win over Estudantes in a Pernambuco State Championship match.

Egypt stun Czechoslovakia

BRNO, Czechoslovakia, April 6, (Reuters): An opportunistic goal by Mohammed Kas earned Egypt a surprise 1-0 victory over Czechoslovakia in a World Cup warm-up soccer international on Wednesday.

A long, looping throw-in from the right in the 73rd minute bounced high into the Czechoslovak penalty area and Kas rose above the defence to head past goalkeeper Jan Stejskal.

The goal, completely against the run of play, was the highspot of an uninspiring match.

Neither team gave any indication they might be able to set alight the World Cup finals in Italy this summer.

After losing 3-1 to Romania in Cairo last week and managing only goalless draws in their three previous home matches, the Egyptians' confidence will have been boosted by defeating a European team.

Czechoslovakia, in contrast, were humiliated. Although they created few scoring opportunities, they dominated play until the goal.

Portuguese government guarantees GP

LISBON, April 6, (Agencies): Portugal's Formula One motor race will go ahead at Estoril on September 23 despite a feud over use of the race track, the Portuguese government guaranteed yesterday.

The cabinet said after its weekly meeting that ministers had approved a law permitting the government to take over sports installations if dialogue failed.

"If an accord is not reached about use of the track, the government will not hesitate in using the legal means to guarantee Portugal's Grand Prix," a statement said.

"It would be very serious if the Grand Prix did not take place in Portugal and was moved to another country for a lack of available installations. National interest would be seriously hurt," it added.

There was no immediate comment from the Portuguese Automobile Club (ACP) which threatened to cancel the event this week if track owners Autodril did not guarantee it use of the race track for domestic contests.

Autodril want to authorise



Prost (right) smiles as he talks with his technicians at the Imola Autodrome. (Reuters wirephoto)

only a handful of races, including the Grand Prix.

ACP president Cesar Torres said later that in the light of the government's decision he had registered Portugal's race with the International Motor Sports

Federation by yesterday's deadline.

Torres said contacts between the ACP, government and Autodril were continuing to resolve the conflict over domestic events.

■Brazilian F-1 driver Ayrton Senna yesterday was quoted as saying that he "will look around" when his contract with the McLaren-Honda team expires at the end of this season.

In an interview with Rome's sports daily Corriere dello Sport Senna added that he is interested in driving only for top teams (and "that's McLaren, Ferrari and Williams").

The 1988 world champion, who's testing his racer at the Imola Autodrome for the Grand Prix of San Marino scheduled here on May 13, emphasizes that "McLaren and Honda have my full confidence at the moment and I am only thinking of developing the brand-new model ... I will look around before deciding my future. This is not an urgent matter, however. I think of my contract in due time."

About his tense relations with Frenchman Alain Prost, Senna "as quoted as saying" "we are too different to get on well together."

Prost, who joined Ferrari this year, won the 1989 world title following a bitter duel with Senna, at the time his teammate at McLaren-Honda.

KISL All-Stars finish 4th

THE KISL men's All-Stars, sponsored by Pepsi-Cola, placed fourth in last month's all-Mideast softball tournament in Dubai. The men ended with a very respectable 3-3 record, after Kuwait teams had won only one of eight games in the three previous semi-annual events.

The men got off to a great start defeating Dubai Entera, 12-6. In their second game they lost narrowly to last year's "A" division champions, the Pan Am Clippers, 12-11. In their third game, Kuwait defeated ASU Bahrain, 6-3, becoming the seventh seed in the "A" division playoffs.

Next Kuwait upset the second-seeded Al-Khobar Falcons, 14-6, pounding out 18 hits and earning a semi-final playoff spot against local favorites, Abu Dhabi Matrix, who won 4-1. Matrix eventually won the "A" division championship by defeating the Navy Lasalle team.

Kuwait's All-Stars faced Pan Am again for third place in the double-elimination tournament, losing their finale, 17-7, to the powerful Clippers. The men now look forward optimistically to the November tournament, and thank Pepsi-Cola for its sponsorship of the men's and women's teams.



The KISL men's team

Sports briefs

Gymnastics star

RENO, Nevada, April 6, (UPI): Former Olympic gymnastic star Nadia Comaneci returned to performing for the first time since defecting from Romania four months ago — at a nightclub. She was to star in a show called "The Mystery and Magic of Nadia," at Billy's Hotel Casino last night.

Hadlee out

WELLINGTON, New Zealand, April 6, (AP): All-rounder Richard Hadlee has opted out of New Zealand's team to play a one-day series of matches in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, later this month.

Slavkov freed

SOFIA, April 6, (Reuters): Ivan Slavkov, president of the Bulgarian Olympic Committee and one-time leader of deposed communist dictator Todor Zhivkov, was freed yesterday after 44 days' police detention on fraud charges.

Record holder

LONDON, April 6, (Reuters): World decathlon record holder, Daley Thompson, will be forced to qualify for the European Athletics Championships in Split, Yugoslavia.

1994 Olympics

OSLO, April 6, (Reuters): Norway's parliament agreed yesterday to move the 1994 Winter Olympics away from the town of Lillehammer, rejecting competing proposals to spread the games around southern Norway.

Sex discrimination

LOS ANGELES, April 6, (Reuters): Pam Postema, a veteran Major League baseball umpire who has been turned down three times by the Major Leagues, yesterday filed a federal sex discrimination suit, claiming she had been rejected for jobs because she is a woman.

Dutch coach

UTRECHT, Netherlands, April 6, (AP): The Royal Dutch Soccer Federation will ask Amsterdam Ajax coach Leo Beenhakker to take the helm of the European champions Dutch team for the World Cup, a source close to the federation said yesterday.

Algerian star

ALGIERS, April 6, (Reuters): Algerian soccer star Larbi Beloumi will be a candidate for the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) in the country's first free elections in June.

Irish fear

DUBLIN, April 6, (Reuters): Irish businessmen fear the country's economy could halve this summer as workers take time off to watch Ireland competing for the first time in the World Cup soccer finals in Italy.

Serginho banned